



SMALL · PRAYERFUL · AVAILABLE · RELATIONAL · KERYGMATIC

### SPARKLER 3: Gimme S'more Holy Spirit!

Leaders can invite their group to a gathering by a campfire or just to a simple get-together. If you are able, offer s'mores as the dessert. The gathering is deliberately relaxed, with a short presentation and even a song for you to play. Our hope is that you enjoy your time together as a group, reflecting on how the Holy Spirit acts in our lives.

The Discussion Questions are in blue. You can ask them within the presentation or save them until the end, depending on what your group prefers.

**Opening Prayer:** Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. Amen.

**Opening Joke:** Choose one or share all three.

What did the campers have to say about the campfire? They gave it *glowing* reviews!

What happened when the shoe factory was on fire? Many soles were lost!

How do you think God kindles the flame of love between soulmates? With a match made in heaven!

**Opening Question:** Share an enjoyable time you have spent in front of a crackling fire.



ST. MARY MAGDALEN  
WITNESSING TO THE RESURRECTION

**Presentation:** Here is a definition of fire from *Wikipedia*: “Fire is the rapid oxidation of a material in the exothermic chemical process of combustion, releasing heat, light, and various reaction products.”

Fire is an age-old symbol of the presence of God. In the Bible, it represents God’s power and God’s protection over God’s people. Sometimes this power is shown through wrath and destruction, but like a forest fire clearing a segment of trees, that devastation often serves to set the stage for new growth.

- Have you had a time where damage in one area of your life opened up new options in another? Did you feel the presence of God in this journey?

In the Old Testament, God appears to Moses in the Burning Bush, and we see God’s power, as the bush is not consumed by the flames. Later, God protects the people as they escape from Egypt when God leads them during the night with a pillar of flame.

This power and protection is also demonstrated when God saved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from being consumed in the fiery furnace of Nebuchadnezzar. The Lord appeared in the fire with them, protecting them from harm. (This story can be found in the third chapter of Daniel.)

- Have you ever felt protected by God? Share your story with your group.

In the New Testament, John the Baptist preaches about the coming of Jesus. In Matthew Chapter 3, we hear John say, “I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire.”

This prophecy comes true in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles.

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language.



- What did the apostles receive from the Holy Spirit on Pentecost? [One answer to this is: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit, discussed below. But also answers like “courage,” “passion,” “the gift of tongues,” etc. are great. This is a question to prepare for the next section.]

Often, when we talk about Pentecost, we talk about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. They are:

Wisdom: which gives us the grace to see everything with the eyes of God.

Understanding: which grants us insight into how the Holy Spirit works in our lives.

Counsel: which helps us to listen to our conscience and then aids us in taking the right action with the right intention.

Fortitude: which grants us courage and perseverance so that we can hold fast to our faith.

Knowledge: which allows us to know things beyond human knowledge through the power of the Spirit.

Piety: which enables us to pray to God with complete confidence, knowing that we are dependent on God for everything.

Wonder and Awe: which bestows on us a loving and profound reverence for the Lord, knowing how small we are before Him.

*The following two questions can be asked together. After you ask the questions, repeat the list of the Gifts to help folks consider the questions. Also, it might be helpful if you already have your answer ready for these.*

- Which of these Gifts do you recognize in yourself?
- Which of these Gifts do you struggle with the most?

Beyond the above Gifts, the Apostles also received the fire of the Holy Spirit. This allowed them to move beyond themselves to do things they had been afraid of before. They had been hiding in the Upper Room, but now were emboldened to go out and preach to the crowds. They were given the passion to fulfill their mission. After Peter



spoke that day, three thousand people were converted. That is why Pentecost is considered the Birthday of the Church.

- Have you had the experience of being “emboldened” by the Holy Spirit? What did that feel like?

Going back to the Old Testament for a minute, Moses’ experience with the Burning Bush teaches us something about how the Holy Spirit will work in our own lives.

We hear the story in Exodus Chapter 3.

Meanwhile Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock beyond the wilderness, he came to the mountain of God, Horeb. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him as fire flaming out of a bush. When he looked, although the bush was on fire, it was not being consumed. So Moses decided, “I must turn aside to look at this remarkable sight. Why does the bush not burn up?” When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to look, God called out to him from the bush: Moses! Moses! He answered, “Here I am.” God said: Do not come near! Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father, he continued, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

“The angel of the Lord” was a term used to indicate the visual form under which God occasionally appeared and spoke to people. When Moses saw the Burning Bush, what struck him was that it was not being consumed. This cued him in to the presence of God. The Lord was using the bush to get the message across, but the bush itself was not destroyed or used up in the process. The same goes for us when we consent to the will of the Holy Spirit. Often, we are afraid of where going along with God will lead. (“I am worried that God will ask me to do something I don’t want to do! I may lose part of who I am, part of my independence.”) But the burning bush shows us that not only are we *not* used up, we are instead made more. We are infused with holiness and made into holy ground. We are the ones who receive the courage and passion that was given to the apostles at Pentecost. We are granted the wisdom we need and the understanding to see the hand of the Lord in everything we experience. We are made more through God’s work in us.



ST. MARY MAGDALEN  
WITNESSING TO THE RESURRECTION

- Have you experienced that fear of consenting to the will of God in your life?
- What happened once you made the decision to consent?
- Where in your life have you been made “more” by the work of the Holy Spirit?

In the definition of fire above, we learned that fire releases heat, light, and various reaction products. The fire of the Holy Spirit releases in us the heat of passion for doing the Lord’s will. It allows the Light of Christ to be seen by others as it shines through us. And it results in various “reaction products” in our lives such as courage, passion, and wisdom. The fire of the Holy Spirit fills us with all we need to live a life worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him in every way and bearing fruit in every good work.

Discussion Questions: (These are the same questions as above.)

- Have you had a time where damage in one area of your life opened up new options in another? Did you feel the presence of God in this journey?
- Have you ever felt protected by God? Share your story with your group.
- What did the apostles receive from the Holy Spirit on Pentecost? [The answer to this is: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit, discussed below. But also answers like “courage,” “passion,” “the gift of tongues,” etc. are great. This is a question to set up the next section.]
- *The following two questions about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit can be asked together. After you ask the questions, repeat the list of the Gifts to help folks consider the questions. Also, it might be helpful if you already have your answer ready for these.*
  - Which of these Gifts do you recognize in yourself?
  - Which of these Gifts do you struggle with the most?
- Have you had the experience of being “emboldened” by the Holy Spirit? What did that feel like?
- Have you experienced that fear of consenting to the will of God in your life?
- What happened once you made the decision to consent?
- Where in your life have you been made “more” by the work of the Holy Spirit?



ST. MARY MAGDALEN  
WITNESSING TO THE RESURRECTION

**Play song:** *Holy Spirit Come* Patrick Mayberry

Links follow the descriptions of the song version. Or go to Youtube.com. Search: "Holy Spirit Come Patrick Mayberry." There are several versions of this. Pick the one that has "(Official Lyric Video)."

Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/KoTNHiFq0p0> Reminder: There may be an ad before the video plays.

## **Intentions**

**Closing Prayer:** Lord, we thank you for our time together. Holy Spirit, come to us like a fire. Help us recognize you as Moses did. Fill us with your passion and embolden us to carry out your mission. We look to you to overcome any fears we may have, knowing that you always want what is best for us. Make us more through the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Be with us as we go back out into the world. Amen.



*Holy Spirit Come* (Patrick Mayberry) lyrics:

I'm coming with a heart of worship  
I'm bringing in a brand-new song  
I'm ready to see the unthinkable  
I'm ready for a miracle

Hearts praying for a fresh encounter  
Souls looking to the living God  
I'm ready for a real revival

Oh Holy Spirit come  
Like a flood, like a fire  
Holy Spirit fall  
In this place, fill our hearts

Holy Spirit come  
Like a flood, like a fire  
Holy Spirit come  
Oh, Holy Spirit come  
(Woo!)

We're on the edge of a new beginning  
God, we know you have so much more  
We're looking to a new horizon  
We're praying for Your rain to pour

An overflowing of true redemption  
An overflowing of Your kingdom  
We're ready for a real revival

Oh, Holy Spirit come  
Like a flood, like a fire  
Holy Spirit fall  
In this place, fill our hearts  
Holy Spirit come

Like a flood, like a fire  
Holy Spirit come  
Oh, Holy Spirit come

Oh, can you feel it?  
Heaven is reaching  
Oh, can you hear it?  
Our God is speaking  
Oh, can you see it?  
He's got your healing  
Oh, just receive it  
Receive the freedom

Oh, can you feel it?  
Heaven is reaching  
Oh, can you hear it?  
Our God is speaking  
Oh, can you see it?  
He's got your healing  
Oh, just receive it  
Receive the freedom

Come, like a flood, like a fire  
Holy Spirit fall  
In this place, fill our hearts  
Holy Spirit come  
Like a flood, like a fire  
Holy Spirit come  
Oh, Holy Spirit come

Oh, come along



ST. MARY MAGDALEN  
WITNESSING TO THE RESURRECTION