

# Why do Christians say the Holy Spirit is important?

Year Group: Y1 & Y2 (Y2 recommended)

A Suggested “Christianity School Development” Unit  
for Cambridgeshire



## Materials to Support The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Cambridgeshire

### For the Teacher - The Christian beliefs and teaching in this Unit

One of the greatest theologians of the Early Church, Augustine of Hippo, once said that trying to explain the Doctrine of the Trinity is like trying to empty the ocean with a cup, so don't worry if some questions come up in pursuing this enquiry which you can't give a perfect answer to – Augustine would have had the same problem!

The terms which you need to introduce (although not in this detail) are:

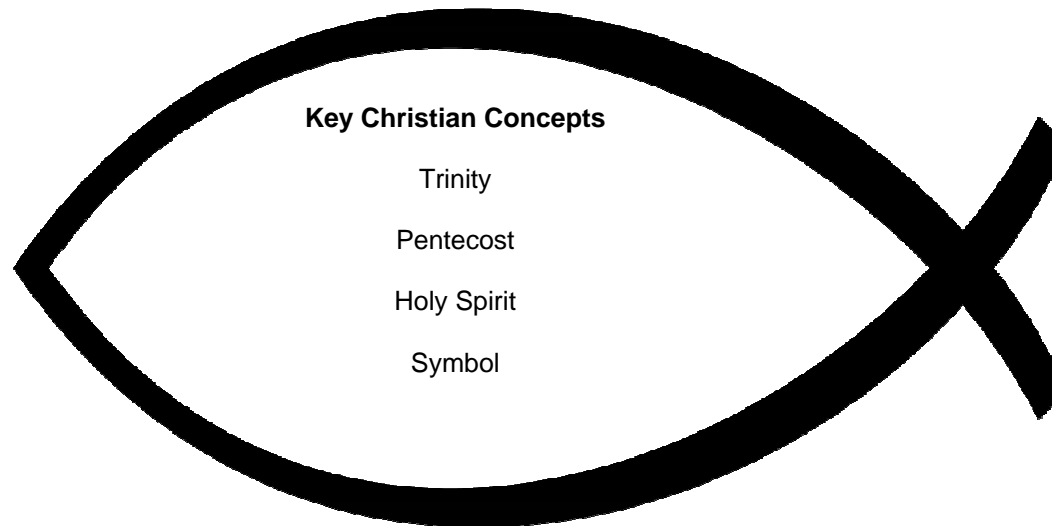
**Pentecost** - this is the festival when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is celebrated on the Sunday 50 days after Easter (the name comes from the Greek *pentekoste*, "fiftieth"). Pentecost is regarded as the birthday of the Christian church, because it is the start of the church's mission to the world. In Acts chapter 2 the disciples were together on this day when the Holy Spirit descended on them. They sensed something like a very strong wind, and saw something like tongues of fire. The apostles then found themselves speaking in foreign languages, inspired by the Holy Spirit. People passing by at first thought that they must be drunk, but the apostle Peter told the crowd that the apostles were full of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is a special day for any Christian, but it is emphasised particularly by Pentecostal Churches which believe in the direct experience of the Holy Spirit by believers during all of their services.

**Trinity** – See especially Matthew chp 28 vs 19. The doctrine of the Trinity defines God as three divine persons namely the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit; that is as **one** God in **three** persons. . The three persons of the Trinity are **distinct**, yet are all the **same** nature. (It is assumed that a nature is *what* one is, while a person is *who* one is). This means that each person of the Trinity is God, *whole and entire*. They are described as having always existed in union, dependence and love with each other. This is the closest possible relationship there can be and it means that although we see God at work in different ways and allocate different “roles” to the different persons we should never try to mentally break God into three distinct parts. The doctrine is a mystery (using the term in its technical sense) and so it is no wonder that anyone who tries to describe it will soon find themselves resorting to symbols such as the triquetra or the shamrock, or the imagery of water / steam / ice, in order to convey their meaning. Don't panic ....just remember Augustine and his cup!

**Holy Spirit** – The third person of the Trinity. The New Testament includes over 90 references to the Holy Spirit, as there is a close relationship between the Holy Spirit and Jesus during his earthly life and ministry: he is shown as conceived by the Holy Spirit in

Mary; the Holy Spirit then descends on Jesus as a dove during his Baptism; and at the Last Supper Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples after his departure (as happens at Pentecost). In Christian theology the Holy Spirit is believed to have a specific function in the life of the Christian or the Church: Firstly He brings a person to the Christian faith (and the new believer is described as "born again of the Spirit"); He then lives in and with individual believers and encourages them to live a good and faithful life; He is also described as a comforter who is with them at difficult times.

**Fruits of the Spirit** – There are nine Fruits of the Spirit which you will find listed in Galatians chp 5 vss 22f as love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness and self-control. In essence they are the description of how a believer should live when they have received the Holy Spirit into their lives.



## UNIT TITLE: Why do Christians say the Holy Spirit is so important?

**Key Question: What happened at Pentecost?**

Learning Objectives	Suggested Teaching and Learning	Learning Outcomes (Can be written as success criteria)	Points to note
<p>To know the story of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recollect together what you already know about Jesus' death and resurrection and discover that before he died Jesus promised he would send the Holy Spirit to help the disciples after he had gone. In pairs discuss who you think the Holy Spirit might be. Share ideas and make a list of questions you would like to ask about this.</li> <li>● Read the story of Pentecost or listen to it at <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfJfX-F06f4">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfJfX-F06f4</a></li> <li>● Act out the story together or focus on a painting of Pentecost. Discuss how the disciples felt before and after the coming of the Holy Spirit (empathy). Create a "disciple before and after Pentecost" record.</li> <li>● If it is the right time of year you could even throw a "Pentecost Party" <a href="http://www.churchschoolseast.org.uk/Pentecostday.htm">http://www.churchschoolseast.org.uk/Pentecostday.htm</a></li> </ul>	<p>I can name Pentecost and explain what I find puzzling about the story Level 1</p> <p>I can retell the story of Pentecost and suggest why it was important for those who were there Level 2</p> <p>I can describe who I think the Holy Spirit is and suggest what effect his arrival had on people Level 3</p>	<p>The Brick Testament tells the story of Pentecost using the Biblical text: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ww-0sCm0ge4">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ww-0sCm0ge4</a> while the Veggie Tales version explains Pentecost a little more and is at: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtokHQOmFu0">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtokHQOmFu0</a></p> <p>John chapter 15 verse 26 from the Message translation: <i>"When the Friend I plan to send you from the Father comes—the Spirit of Truth issuing from the Father—he will confirm everything about me."</i></p>

*What do we want from working with this question?*

Pupils to realise the significance of Pentecost in the life of the Church.

Key Question: Who is the Holy Spirit?			
Learning Objectives	Suggested Teaching and Learning	Learning Outcomes (Can be written as success criteria)	Points to note
<p>To understand that Christians believe the Holy Spirit is God</p> <p>To inquire into symbols of the Trinity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draw round a child on a large piece of paper and think about how many different ways you can describe a person (brother, son, pupil, friend, team mate, swimmer, singer...) (it's helpful to model this talking about yourself first) – divide the outline into the appropriate number of sections and label each area. Discuss whether if you know that person in just one of their guises you really know them properly. (You can also make individual personal diagrams.) Repeat the exercise and question with a circle divided into three for God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.</li> <li>Look together at some paintings and / or symbols of the Trinity to see how artists tried to show that God is both three and one. Create your own symbols to portray the same message, or listen to the story of St Patrick and the shamrock and make craft versions of the trinity shamrock (the blog at <a href="http://catholicicing.com/shamrock-trinity-craft/">http://catholicicing.com/shamrock-trinity-craft/</a> has some ideas) OR do some plaiting or make a mobius strip or use playdough to create a visual of how something can be both one and more than one. (<a href="http://mathforum.org/sum95/math_and/moebius/moebius.html">http://mathforum.org/sum95/math_and/moebius/moebius.html</a>) take photographs—<b>explaining the item can be your assessment.</b></li> </ul> <p>An alternative way of visually explaining Trinity is the three forms of H<sub>2</sub>O – water, steam, ice- which retain their chemical composition whatever their form. This works well as a Trinity plenary –especially if you have the different forms to demonstrate.</p> <p>A further alternative is to use Rublev's Icon of the Trinity Find out about it in detail at <a href="http://www.wellsprings.org.uk/rublevs_icon/">http://www.wellsprings.org.uk/rublevs_icon/</a> and use the lesson suggestion on Trinity at <a href="http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/what-christians-">http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/what-christians-</a></p>	<p>I can recognise some symbols of the Trinity and I can understand that I will never know everything about everyone, especially God Level 1</p> <p>I can explain the shape of some symbols of the Trinity and I can understand how a person can appear differently to different people Level 2</p> <p>I can ask questions about Trinity symbols and link them to Christian beliefs about God Level 3</p>	<p>A very helpful book using the parts of a tree to explain the Trinity for KS1 is “Three in One: A Book about God”. by Lynne M Lepley.</p> <p>There are many possible web images for the Trinity including: <a href="http://dbmz6k5r32451.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/Trinity1.png">http://dbmz6k5r32451.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/Trinity1.png</a> <a href="http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/carolrb/christianity/christian_beliefs.html">http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/carolrb/christianity/christian_beliefs.html</a></p> <p>The Veggie Tales version of the story of St Patrick includes the story of the shamrock <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fg5ejLGEzK">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fg5ejLGEzK</a> (Warning – check first, the accents might be too distracting.)</p> <p><a href="http://musicanddancing.wordpress.com/perichoresis/">http://musicanddancing.wordpress.com/perichoresis/</a> Perichoresis is the idea of the dancing God – a circle of three figures joined together in a dynamic orbit, constantly interweaving and inseparable and in relationship. Would you like to make a Trinity dance – or a model of a Trinity dance?</p> <p><i>This is a difficult concept – expect children to struggle – adults do!</i></p>

*What do we want from working with this question?*  
Pupils to start to grapple with the concept “Trinity” (most people won’t ever get past the starting to grapple stage!) and begin to see that He / She is one way of talking about God.

**Key Question: What does the Holy Spirit do?**

Learning Objectives	Suggested Teaching and Learning	Learning Outcomes (Can be written as success criteria)	Points to note
<p>To be aware that the Holy Spirit is believed to be active in people's lives in different ways</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch as George explains the work of the Holy Spirit in his life to Susan at <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eiekKgp6YQ">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eiekKgp6YQ</a> and write questions you would like to ask him about what he has said. If possible, invite your vicar or someone from the local church to answer your questions.</li> <li>• Demonstrate a trust game with a team of four children – one person to be led blindfolded around an obstacle course while the other three take on the roles of the Holy Spirit as teacher (explaining the activity first), as guide (leading around the course) and encourager (affirmation of progress). Other children to observe, then discuss the different roles and their importance for the blindfolded person. What difference would it make in people's lives if there was someone with them always who acted as teacher, guide and encourager? (You can divide the whole class into teams for this, but it then becomes a lengthy process.)</li> <li>• Use the information gathered to date to write "The Holy Spirit's Job Description". – <b>this could be your assessment piece.</b></li> </ul>	<p>I can name some of the things Christians believe the Holy Spirit does Level 1</p> <p>I can talk about some of the things Christians believe the Holy Spirit does Level 2</p> <p>I can describe some of the things Christians believe the Holy Spirit does in their lives Level 3</p>	<p>The Biblical passages which can be said to form the Holy Spirit's "job description" are John chp 14 vss 15-17, 25-26, chp 15 vss 26-27, and chp 16 vss 4-15.</p>

*What do we want from working with this question?*

Pupils to understand the Holy Spirit works in Christians lives today in many different ways and is like a supportive "best friend".

**Key Question: What difference does the Holy Spirit make in the life of a Christian? (Love)**

Learning Objectives	Suggested Teaching and Learning	Learning Outcomes (Can be written as success criteria)	Points to note
<p><i>This and the following key questions –</i></p> <p>To discover how Christians believe the Holy Spirit works with and within them</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look at some photographs of fruit bearing trees and plants, some with fruit on, some without, - identify them. Was it easier to identify the plants with or without the fruit? Understand that as you cannot see the Holy Spirit, it is easiest to spot the Holy Spirit working in people's lives by how they act or feel and these things are known in the Bible as the "fruits of the Spirit".</li> <li>What are the fruits of the Spirit? Watch one of the song videos and see how many you can name using this..</li> <li>The first fruit is "Love" – where can we see Christians showing love? Hear stories about one or more of the following: a well known Christian worker (such as Mother Teresa); a Christian charity at work; Christians in your locality (sponsorship, foodbanks), Operation Christmas Child etc.</li> <li>Brainstorm the question "What is love like?" and compare your answer to the list in I Corinthians chp 13. Role play scenarios based on your school or community where people have the opportunity of showing love in action.</li> </ul>	<p>I can name some of the Christian fruits of the Spirit and I can talk about what "love" means to me Level 1</p> <p>I can name and explain the Christian fruits of the Spirit and I can recognise how Christians can show Christian love Level 2</p> <p>I can explain why Christians talk about "fruits of the Spirit" and give examples of Christian love in action Level 3</p>	<p>Fruit of the Spirit songs at: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDNvUOZRFxs">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDNvUOZRFxs</a> or <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyBmPOIPWNA">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyBmPOIPWNA</a> These refer to Galatians chp 5 vss 22-23.</p> <p>Mother Teresa on love <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmVgffR79oo">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmVgffR79oo</a> Christian charity in Stafford feeding the homeless: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mqw6jgy311M">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mqw6jgy311M</a> Stories of the work of Christian aid <a href="http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/games/stories/index.aspx">http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/games/stories/index.aspx</a></p> <p>You may like to use a secular storybook as a stimulus for talking about what love means "Guess how much I love you" by Sam McBratney is just one possibility <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JecKdOO7PyU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JecKdOO7PyU</a></p> <p><i>Three of the "fruits" have been developed in this unit, you may choose to engage with more of them, or deal with the concept of fruits in a (very crowded) single session.</i></p>

*What do we want from working with this question?*

Pupils to be able to talk about what "love" means to themselves and to Christians.

**Key Question: What difference does the Holy Spirit make in the life of a Christian? (Joy)**

Learning Objectives	Suggested Teaching and Learning	Learning Outcomes (Can be written as success criteria)	Points to note
<p><i>This and the following key question –</i></p> <p>To discover how Christians believe the Holy Spirit works with and within them</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show a snatch of a humorous film and encourage the class to laugh for as long as they think it's funny. How long did this laughter really last and when did it become forced? If you saw exactly the same thing again is it still as funny? Is funny the same as happy? What makes you happy? How long can you be happy for? Could anything, or anyone, make you happy for ever?</li> <li>• Christians use the word "joy" to describe something which is deep within you whether you are happy or sad on the surface, so you can have God's joy in your heart even in bad times. You could listen to one of the suggested videos (warning they are not "easy") or talk about how Christians trust and love God, so they know that even when bad things happen God is with them.</li> <li>• Complete the sentence "Christian joy is different from ordinary happiness or fun because....."</li> </ul>	<p>I can name some of the Christian fruits of the Spirit and I can talk about what "happy" means to me Level 1</p> <p>I can name and explain the Christian fruits of the Spirit and I can recognise Christian joy Level 2</p> <p>I can explain why Christians talk about "fruits of the Spirit" and give examples of how Christian joy is different from being happy Level 3</p>	<p>Pope Francis on Christian Joy: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ey6VnQTCQHw">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ey6VnQTCQHw</a> or <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ls18ssf0n7k">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ls18ssf0n7k</a> or <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJkV3dZpuM4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJkV3dZpuM4</a></p> <p>A good cartoon to watch could be "for the birds" <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOiyD26cJ2A">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOiyD26cJ2A</a></p>

*What do we want from working with this question?*

Pupils to realise that Christians feel they always have joy in their hearts because God is with them all the time.



**Key Question: What difference does the Holy Spirit make in the life of a Christian? (Peace)**

Learning Objectives	Suggested Teaching and Learning	Learning Outcomes (Can be written as success criteria)	Points to note
<p>To discover how Christians believe the Holy Spirit works with and within them</p> <p>To explain why the Holy Spirit is important to Christians</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is peace? Enjoy together one of Jill Murphy's books such as "Peace at Last" or "Five Minutes Peace". What does "peace" mean in these books? Can the word mean more than this? In circle time talk about "What peace means to me".</li> <li>• Listen to a setting of the ancient Gaelic Blessing "Deep Peace". How is this peace different from that in the story books? Where do we find peace for ourselves? Write your own version of the Gaelic blessing as a class using images of peace which speak to you. (This could be turned into a powerpoint of images to use later in class worship.)</li> <li>• The Prayer of St Francis "Make me a channel of your peace" takes the Blessing further – when you have been blessed by God you don't keep that peace to yourself, you channel it to others. Listen to and read the prayer together and use it to describe as many ways as you can in which the Holy Spirit could work in and with a Christian to bring peace to others.</li> <li>• Final plenary – bring together all that you have discovered about the Holy Spirit – have you answered the unit question? <b>Record your thinking for an assessment piece answering the key question.</b></li> </ul>	<p>I can name some of the Christian fruits of the Spirit and I can talk about what "peace" means to me Level 1</p> <p>I can name and explain the Christian fruits of the Spirit and I can recognise how Christians can have inner peace Level 2</p> <p>I can explain why Christians talk about "fruits of the Spirit" and give examples of how Christians work for peace Level 3</p>	<p>"Deep Peace" with suitable images can be found at <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObrYXo93QYI">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObrYXo93QYI</a></p> <p>Rutter's Version of "Make me a Channel of Your Peace" with lyrics and images are at: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sE9std-lwXQ">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sE9std-lwXQ</a> and Sinead O'Connor's at: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vToimPtYGyU">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vToimPtYGyU</a></p>

*What do we want from working with this unit?*

Pupils to be able to talk about the Holy Spirit as God and to understand how the Holy Spirit makes a difference in a Christian's life.