

This midweek study will explore why it's important for students to recognize that all humanity has inherited a sin nature that can only be overcome through the power of the Holy Spirit. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.

Essential Doctrine: Personality of the Holy Spirit

The Bible not only affirms the full divinity of the Holy Spirit but also His personhood. Many people have mistakenly believed that the Spirit is a force or power, not a person. However, Scripture affirms His personhood by acknowledging that He is treated as a person (Acts 5:3; 7:51; Heb. 10:29), acts like a person (John 14:26; 15:26; Rom. 8:14), has attributes of a person (1 Cor. 2:10-11; Eph. 4:30), and acts in personal ways (Isa. 63:10; Acts 13:2). In addition to these, the Bible also affirms that Christians relate to Him personally (Acts 5:3-4; 7:51).

1 The Holy Spirit is a Person, equal with the Father and Son (John 14:26; 2 Cor. 13:14).

Option: Have you ever felt undermined or forgotten? Why did that happen? How did that experience affect you? The Holy Spirit can be treated this way so often. We can easily forget that He is a Person, like the Father and Son.

- ▶ *What are some of the qualities that make a person a person?*

Read 2 Corinthians 13:14 and John 14:26.

- ▶ *What pronouns did Jesus use for the Holy Spirit in John 14:26? Why is this significant for showing His personhood?*
- ▶ *What does the passage in 2 Corinthians show us about the way the three Persons of the Trinity work together?*

2 The Holy Spirit works in us on a personal level (John 14:26; Rom. 8:26-27).

Option: Ask students to share about their closest friends. How do those friends interact with them on a personal level? Do they feel comfortable letting these people in on their secrets, struggles, and sufferings? What makes them comfortable enough around these people to let them in?

The Holy Spirit knows us better than any person ever will. He knows how we need to be ministered to, and He loves to provide us with comfort, help, and love.

Read John 14:26.

- ▶ *What does it mean to call the Holy Spirit our "Helper"? In what ways does He help us?*
- Again, Jesus uses "He" as a pronoun for the Spirit, reiterating the fact that the Spirit is a Person.

Read Romans 8:26-27.

- ▶ *Have you ever prayed for something but didn't know how to word what you were praying for?*
- ▶ *What does this passage say the Spirit does for us when we don't know how to communicate what we feel in prayer?*

The Spirit takes the things we don't know how to say to the Father, worded exactly the right way. He knows our hearts and loves to mold our prayers—no matter how weak they seem—on their way to the Father.

3 The Holy Spirit can be grieved or pleased by our actions (Eph. 4:30).

Read Ephesians 4:30.

- ▶ *What are some actions that grieve the Holy Spirit?*
- ▶ *What are some actions that might please the Holy Spirit?*

The Holy Spirit is pleased when we do the right thing and displeased when we fall into sin. Since He is a member of the Trinity, grieving Him is grieving God. Therefore, we must seek to honor Him with our actions.

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ *What aspects of the Holy Spirit make Him a Person?*
- ▶ *What are some of the personal ways the Holy Spirit interacts with us on a daily basis?*

The Holy Spirit is so active in our lives in a personal way. We must seek to honor Him through our actions. And by honoring Him, we are honoring God.