

## Junior Discussion Plan

Year 3 Quarter 3 Week 4

**Aim:** To understand a little about the Holy Spirit and the importance of the Holy Spirit in a Christian life. Fundamental 5 – the Holy Spirit

**Resources:** What We Believe for Kids by Jerry D Thomas; What We Believe for Teens by Seth J Pierce; God Loves Me 28 ways – Bible Adventures for Young Readers. All published by Pacific Press Publishing Association.

**Optional:** Have a whiteboard and make a list of the different things that God's people are compared to. (Church, temple, family, house, body)

Last week we learned how God now talks to us, and lives and works in us, through the Holy Spirit.

God is capable of controlling nature – there are many books with stories about God controlling storms and animals and so on. Many times, God uses His angels in His work on earth, sometimes they even appear as humans. But there are many other times when God choose to use His people to do His work, by sending them to talk to people, to help people and to witness to people.

They say that English is one of the hardest languages to learn. It is a confusing language where one word can mean many different things. Can you think of some words like this? (As an example: Water that comes up from underground is called a spring, a spring is a coiled piece of metal, spring is a season, and my cat springs after anything that moves...)

A building built for the purpose of worship is called a church. – *like this building.*

A group of people who regularly meet together for the purpose of worship are called a church. – we are the \_\_\_\_\_ church.

An organisation formed by people who have the same or similar religious beliefs is called a church. – *For example the Seventh-day Adventist Church.*

God's people on earth are also called His 'church'. And God's church members aren't all in the same church organization, they attend many different churches and worship in many different places.

It is God's Church that we are going to learn more about today.

In Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus had asked the disciples, 'who do the people say I am?' And then, 'who do you say I am?' and Peter had replied that Jesus was the Messiah. Then Jesus said to Peter, "Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church..."

Jesus wasn't talking about a church building, but the group of people who make up His Church on earth. Last week we learned that after the Holy Spirit came, it was Peter who preached a great sermon.

**Read Acts 2:41** – what happened when Peter preached?

This week we learn how Peter does a miracle in Jesus name, then preaches again and what happens?

**Read Acts 3:4**

**Read 1 Corinthians 3:16**

The temple was a place for God to live among His people, now, His people are called 'His Temple' – because He lives in His people – as we learned last week. So His people can be compared to a church building, like the temple – a place where God lives.

**Read Ephesians 3:10** What is the ultimate purpose of God's church? (To display His wisdom to everyone in the universe)

The New Testament writers also compare God's people to other things to help us understand how God works through us. Note too that anyone can be a part of God's people, both Jews, and Gentiles – a Gentile was anyone who wasn't a Jew.

**Read Ephesians 2:19-22** (God's people, family, house, temple dwelling)

**Read Colossians 1:17** (The church, His body)

What does a person's head do? (Controls their body)

**Read Ephesians 4:11-15 one verse at a time and discuss the meaning.** 'He' refers to Jesus.

11. These are some of the different jobs or roles that different people have in the church
12. Our purpose – to build 'the body'
13. Our aim – unity, growing to become like Christ
14. A group is less likely to be deceived than an individual – Eve was tricked when she wasn't with Adam.
15. Like your head directs your body, Jesus should direct or lead us in what we should do.

As a part of God's church what do we need to do?

**Have a good reader read Romans 12:4-12 to finish.**