

# SESSION PLAN

## CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

### 7 Can someone help?

#### The Holy Spirit, Pentecost and Gifts

#### AIMS

1. To recognise that the Holy Spirit is the One promised to us by Jesus as our Helper.
2. To reflect on the special event of Pentecost and understand the change that took place in the apostles.
3. To reflect on what St Paul and the Catechism of the Catholic Church say about the Gifts of the Spirit.
4. To be able to identify and understand the significance of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

#### PRAYER

- Introduce the main theme of this session: **The Holy Spirit.**
- Read the opening prayer 'Help' and leave a few moments for silent reflection.

#### KEY WORDS

- Holy Spirit
- Paraclete
- Pentecost
- Seven Gifts

#### RESOURCES

- Worksheet 7
- Prayer Sheet 7
- Poster: Pentecost
- Bible
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Candle

#### NOTES

See also the Powerpoint presentations 'The Holy Spirit and his Gifts' available on the CD or on [www.sdc.me.uk/resources](http://www.sdc.me.uk/resources).

#### MAIN SESSION

- Talk about new challenges we have face some of which present a dilemma for us. Invite candidates to give examples of situations when they are faced with dilemmas - Part A.
  - Explain that getting Confirmed is a similar situation. This is because living as a truly mature Christian is also a challenge for us. At the same time we are confident because we have been promised a special 'Helper'. Read and discuss the quote John 15: 26-27 in which Jesus promised the Holy Spirit (**Paraclete**) who will help us be witnesses.
  - Move on to Part B. Using the Bible or the extract in Prayer sheet 7, read and discuss Acts 2: 1-11. Invite candidates to suggest key words or phrases that describe the change that took place in the apostles as a result of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Elicit the fact that the same Spirit is the one who comes to us at Confirmation.
  - Introduce the second part of the session which is about the **Gifts** of the Holy Spirit. Read 1 Cor 12: 4-11 followed by para 1830 from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (Part C of worksheet) to explain what St Paul and the Church say about the gifts of the Spirit. Invite candidates to identify, underline or circle key words and phrases in those two extracts and briefly talk about them.
  - Go through the list of the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Explain the significance of each one and invite candidates to make brief notes in the spaces provided.
    - 1 UNDERSTANDING Enables you to grasp meaning of Gospel and live by it.
    - 2 WISDOM: Enables you to recognize, to know and do what God is asking.
    - 3 RIGHT JUDGEMENT: Enables you to decide how to live as a Christian should.
    - 4 KNOWLEDGE: Enables you to understand the meaning of life.
    - 5 COURAGE/FORTITUDE: Enables you to make difficult decisions bravely.
    - 6 REVERENCE/PIETY: Enables you to love and respect God and all others in your life.
    - 7 WONDER and AWE: Enables you to recognise God and praise him for all his gifts.
- NOTE: Both extracts in Part C are also included in the Powerpoint Presentation on CD as are definitions for each of the Seven Gifts. You may find it helpful to do this session using this presentation if equipment is available.

#### CONCLUSION/REFLECTION

- Create a prayerful atmosphere. Place a poster of Pentecost or a list of the Seven Gifts in a prominent place. Light a candle and remind that fire is also a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Invite the whole group to read out the prayer 'Using the Gifts' (Prayer Sheet 7) and leave a few moments for reflection.