

Person of the Holy Spirit

Creator

Genesis 1:1-3, John 3:3-8

Participant's Guide

Create means *the act of producing or causing to exist*. The Hebrew word is **bara** which can be translated as create but also as cut down, choose, or make. The Greek word is **ktizo** which translates as create, make, or fabricate. The Holy Spirit was there from the beginning. It is God, it was God, thus it was present at creation. What role did it play then? Does it still have a role in creation now?

Note: The Amplified Bible would be helpful in this study for extra clarification. It can be accessed with a Bible app like the You Version or Bible Gateway.

In the Beginning

Remember our definition from Holman's Bible Dictionary?
The Holy Spirit is "*The third person of the Trinity through whom God acts, reveals His will, empowers individuals, and discloses His personal presence in the Old and New Testaments. It is depicted as a mighty wind or the breath of God. The Holy Spirit is seen as mysterious and powerful. It can be impersonal or very personal. It can work alone or manifest itself through individuals.*"



The Hebrew word often used in the Old Testament translated Spirit of God is the Hebrew

word **ruwach** that literally means wind, breath, or spirit. The Greek word is **pneuma** which literally means breath, current of air, ghost, angel, life, and mind. Notice how these words represent the presence of an invisible force that can be felt or experienced. Also be aware that the Holy Spirit or the Spirit of God is never depersonalized. The Holy Spirit is always represented as a person not a thing.

Read Genesis 1:1-25 and Psalm 104.

- Where is the Holy Spirit at creation and what is its role in creation?
- In Hebrew the word hovering (**rachaph**) translates as flutter, move, or shake. The art on the previous page shows the face of a person breathing out overlaid by a dove. Does this image match your image of the Holy Spirit at creation? How would your depiction differ?
- How does Psalm 104 compare and contrast with the story in Genesis 1:1-25? What about the role of the Holy Spirit in each?

Read Genesis 1: 26-27, Genesis 2:7, Ecclesiastes 12:6-7, Job 32:8, Job 33:4

- What was the role of the Holy Spirit in these verses? How is it different from the previous verses?
- How do the authors describe what the Holy Spirit does? Discuss the idea of us being created in God's image in light of the Holy Spirit's actions.
- How could these pictures help someone imagine God breathing life into them? How might art be a better way of describing the Holy Spirit rather than words?

Recreation

Recreation is defined as the act of creating anew. We are a new creation in Jesus. The act of creation does not end in Genesis. Let's look at the role that the Holy Spirit has in recreating us.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17, Titus 3:4-5, John 3:3-8, John 6:63, Ezekiel 36: 22-27.



- In the Titus verses, the words for rebirth and renewal carry the emphases of renovation and change for the better. Discuss the expectations of new believers in hearing those words. What do they mean to you?
- The word for birth in the John verses is often used in Greek as a metaphor for excite or convert and “includes the vital principle by which the body is animated”. How might these subtle differences help us to understand what it means to be born of the Spirit?
- Recreation is not only in the New Testament. Who is talking in the Ezekiel passage? What is being promised? To whom? What was to be the role of the Spirit according to these passages? How were the people of Israel to be made new?


Sanctification

When we are recreated in Jesus a wonderful thing happens called sanctification. Sanctification means to be made pure, to be made holy, to be purified, set apart, and consecrated. This is how the Holy Spirit works within us.

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14, 2 Corinthians 7:1, 1 Peter 1:2-9, and Psalm 51.

- What does Paul tell the Thessalonians about why they should be thankful for the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit? How would you express your gratitude?
- According to Paul’s letter to the Corinthians, what is the expectation for our lives after renewal and sanctification?
- According to Peter, how does sanctification affect a person’s spiritual well-being? What is your reaction to this promise?
- Psalm 51 is a wonderful plea for God to renew us with his spirit. Discuss what the psalmist needed from God and how the Holy Spirit plays a part in that. If you have time, watch and listen to this YouTube video of the psalm put to music. Use the words and music to imagine the Holy Spirit making you pure and holy.

<https://youtu.be/0-F7gcSWZWI>

 Create in Me a Clean Heart (Psalm 51) for SAT/SSA Choir | Official Lyric Video
or [Create In Me a Clean Heart! with lyrics \(Keith Green\)](#)

Sealed by God

Once the Holy Spirit has created us anew and sanctified us we are sealed by God. Think about what a seal means. The soldiers put a seal on Jesus’ tomb (Matthew 27:62-66). Seals were a security measure, a mark of ownership, a guarantee that something was uncorrupted, and a way of authenticating something. (See also John 6:27) God’s seal

keeps us safe. God's seal shows we belong to him. God's seal guarantees our salvation. How extraordinary is that?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 and 5:5, Ephesians 1:13-14 and 4:30.

- God put his seal on us but what was the role of the Holy Spirit in that process? Check several different versions of these verses for alternative wording. What does this tell you about our value to God?
- Discuss with your group any new insights you have had about the Holy Spirit from this lesson. What has surprised you? How might this new information renew and refresh your spiritual journey?

Resources

Books

Brand, Draper, England, ed., *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003)

Gregory, S.W and Gregory, D. *Getting to Know the Holy Spirit: Study Guide* (Evansville: Vortex Publishing, 2017)

Ryrie, Charles C. *The Holy Spirit* (Chicago: Moody Publishing, 1997)

Strong, James, *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance Of the Bible* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996)

Swindoll, Charles R. *Flying Closer to the Flame* (Dallas: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993)

Online

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/browse/search?query=Holy%20Spirit>
www.enduringword.com
www.bible-history.com

Art Work

Breath of Life - Graham Braddock
Worship the Holy Spirit - Lance Brown