

# CALLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

where is the Holy Spirit drawing you?



In the previous three units we have begun to think about orientating our lives towards God. We've started to see how this might help us overcome the crises we are experiencing: as humans, in our society and how it has been structured; as part of creation, and the damage we have caused to it; and also in ourselves, some things choosing status and possessions over love for one another and creation. We hope the sessions so far have provoked questions about the meaning and value of life on Earth and have enabled your young people to enter deeper into faith and relationship with Jesus.



This unit, 'Called by the Holy Spirit' builds on 'Called to Listen' and hopes to give a deeper introduction into discernment. Before we jump right into doing something, as well as throughout the process, it is important to reflect on the why and how. Where is God calling us? What are the temptations and distractions from this call? Where is the Spirit drawing you? Your community? – in positive or negative ways? (*Using the Jesuit tradition of discerning the spirits*).

## A brief reflection on previous sessions:

How have you found the challenge of spending some moments in silence? If you have found it useful - what fruits is it bringing to your life? If you have found it difficult, perhaps think about why we find it so hard to be in silence? What might we be running away from? What are we afraid of?

Any lasting thoughts from the previous session, 'Called to Faith'? Are we satisfied with the 'throw-away' culture we currently have or do we want to live for something more, something that will benefit the Earth rather than destroy it? As we change ourselves and begin to reject the reigning culture in which we now live, how may we enter into relationship, and communion, with Christ? Have we returned to the Bible to find knowledge and strength to do this?

## For a short reflection:

Jesus, the Saviour of the World, came down to Earth to be among the people and teach them how to live, to share God's love and make of *us* disciples. After the resurrection, when it was time to depart from this Earth, Jesus told His disciples that it was His time to leave, but that the Holy Spirit would be sent to them, to stay with and guide them.

*Jesus says in **John 16:7**: But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.*

The Holy Spirit assists us in our weakness. He is our inner strength. He is above all our close friend.

- How have we experienced the Holy Spirit moving in our lives?

Cartoon clip for younger year groups: God Sends the Holy Spirit -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMQKy1Mx49M>

For a longer reflection:

“When seeking to discern our own vocation, there are certain questions we ought to ask. We should not start with wondering where we could make more money, or achieve greater recognition and social status. Nor even by asking what kind of work would be most pleasing to us. If we are not to go astray, we need a different starting point. We need to ask: Do I know myself, quite apart from my illusions and emotions? Do I know what brings joy or sorrow to my heart? What are my strengths and weaknesses? These questions immediately give rise to others: How can I serve people better and prove most helpful to our world and to the Church? What is my real place in this world? What can I offer to society? Even more realistic questions then follow: Do I have the abilities needed to offer this kind of service? Could I develop those abilities?”

Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*, #285

**Discussion: Choose one or two of the questions above from Pope Francis to think over, as a group or by yourselves, and share your thoughts.**

## Video and music

The Holy Spirit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNNZO9i1Gjc> (4:10 minutes)

Spirit of the Living God: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogGOIGswStA>

Breathe on me, Breath of God: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S140Ew5Phl8>

## Activity / Discussion Points:

In the above reflection we have thought about where the Father, through the Spirit, is

drawing you. Now we might think about where the Holy Spirit is calling your community. Perhaps think about your school community, parish community, or your local area now.

How has it changed since the coronavirus pandemic?  
What has changed for the better?

What have you witnessed, either yourself, or in the news or on social media, where communities are being pulled apart?  
What do you think the causes, and consequences, of this are?

What kind of community do we dream of?  
What can we do to bring greater community cohesion, participation and resilience going forward?

Explore some examples of young people doing great things in their community:

<https://millionminutes.org/2020-blessed-pier-recipients>

Do you have your own examples to share with one another?

Guidance and concrete ways of Building Community can be found here:

<https://millionminutes.org/buildingcommunity>

## Prayer

Come Holy Spirit,

fill the hearts of your faithful  
and kindle in them the fire  
of your love.

Send forth your Spirit  
and they shall be  
created. And You  
shall renew the  
face of the earth.

Amen.



## Listening to the Spirit

Before we spring into action, it is helpful to take time to discern, or listen, to the Holy Spirit and where He is drawing us. First, we must take a look at ourselves: do we live with love and care for one another, for the stranger, the poor? Do we welcome others as Jesus did? Even those on the margins, those rejected by society, the 'foreigner'? Do we make choices for the benefit of ourselves, or for our community and the common good? Are we putting our talents to good use?

- How might we become beacons of **hope** in our own community? Being examples of God's love?

## Other resources:

- Explore 'An Approach to Good Choices': <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/making-good-decisions/an-approach-to-good-choices/>