

Holiness and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Outline	Environment	Materials
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Gathering and Opening Prayer2. Activity Centers<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activity 1: Banner of Fire• Activity 2: Fruits of the Holy Spirit• Activity 3: Spirit Books3. Closing Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 catechists• At least 2 to 4 facilitators depending on the number of candidates• Prayer table covered with a red cloth, Bible on a stand• Tables and chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children's Bible• Nametags (numbered for table places)• Music sheets• <i>Songs of Celebration</i> CD• Healthy snacks and lunch• Large candle• Several unlit votive candles• Apples (1 for each candidate)• Additional materials needed are listed within each activity

Gathering and Opening Prayer (20 minutes)

Welcome the candidates and gather them in a circle around the prayer table.

Sing "We Are Marching," *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 2.

Ask catechists and facilitators to light the votive candles while the rest of the group is singing.

Proclaim *Acts 2:1–4*.

Have candidates sit on the floor after the reading.

Help them break open the word by asking the following questions:

- Why were the smaller candles on the altar lighted?
- Does the reading tell us anything about fire?
- What are some important things we know about fire?
- How does fire help us? Hurt us? What does the symbol of fire tell us about the Holy Spirit?

Share the meaning of Pentecost and the importance of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Point out that this same Spirit will be given to us in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Summarize the symbolism of fire by pointing out that the Holy Spirit warms our hearts to love, ignites or sparks us to be good, lights the path to truth, and melts away any anger or fear.

Activity Centers

Direct the candidates to note the number on their nametags and ask them to move to the appropriate table.

Activity 1: Banner of Fire (20 minutes)

Materials Needed

- Large, red fabric shaped like a tongue of fire ironed on to freezer paper (11" x 17", 1 per candidate)
- Permanent markers
- Yarn or string (10–12" per candidate)
- Foam shapes
- Glue
- Staplers
- Dowels (1 per candidate)

Direct the candidates to their tables where the materials (except the dowels and staplers) are located at each place. Be sure to have enough materials for each candidate.

Ask them to think about this phrase: *The Holy Spirit is like fire because....* After a time of reflection, direct them to write those words, filling in the blank with a word or phrase on the red fabric.

(The ironed-on freezer paper keeps the cloth stable and can be peeled off when they have finished.) They can decorate their Spirit banner with bits of yarn, drawn pictures, and foam shapes. As they are finishing, the catechists or facilitators should come to each table and staple the banner onto a thin wooden dowel. Direct the candidates to place their banners under their chairs to be used later.

Rotation and Break (5 minutes)

Activity 2: The Fruits of the Spirit (20 minutes)

Materials needed

- 1 apple per candidate
- Story of Johnny Appleseed*
- Copies of **Candidates' Confirmation Retreat Handout 1**
- Pencils

Gather the candidates back in the center around the prayer table.

Show them an apple and ask them to share what they know about Johnny Appleseed.

Tell the story of the man who took it upon himself to travel in the wilderness around the Great Lakes planting apple seeds. This was his gift to the human family. End by saying that we enjoy the fruit of his planting today every time we bite into a crisp apple. The work of the Holy Spirit in us is similar to Johnny Appleseed and his apples. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit plants the seeds, which are called the gifts of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit also tends these seeds in our heart so that our lives will bear fruit. We bear the fruit of the Spirit's presence when we live as holy people.

Introduce Candidates' Confirmation Retreat Handout 1 with these or similar words:

The Holy Spirit lives in you. He helps us live as God wants us to live. We cannot live like God wants us to without help. So the Holy Spirit helps us. He helps us to live our lives in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We call these the fruits of the Holy Spirit. We are confirmed in the Holy Spirit so that we might walk in His ways.

Lunch (30–45 minutes)

Activity 3: Spirit Books (20 minutes)

Materials needed

- Several sheets of construction paper or card stock, with three holes punched into the left side
- Art supplies
- Three-hole folders
- Copies of **Candidates' Confirmation Retreat Handout 2**
- Pencils
- Appropriate magazine pictures
- Permanent markers
- Glue

Direct the candidates back to their tables, where supplies for making their Spirit book are located.

Instruct them to create a book about the Holy Spirit by making a list of the qualities of the Holy Spirit.

Explain they can use the words, drawings, and pictures. After they have worked for a while, distribute Handout 2, which will help them create a prayer to the Holy Spirit. The catechists and facilitators should assist candidates.

Assemble the books into three-hole folders. Ask the candidates to spend the remaining time decorating their book covers and reviewing the handout.

Closing Prayer (20 minutes)

Invite the candidates to retrieve their Spirit banners and gather them into a procession. As they process, have them sing, "We Are Marching" from the *Songs of Celebration* CD, track 2 as they wave their banners.

Gather candidates in a circle around the altar.

Read *John 14:16–18*.

Invite all the candidates to read aloud their composed Prayer to the Holy Spirit. The mingling voices will echo the Pentecost scene.

Close by inviting all to extend a Sign of Peace to one another.

Distribute an apple to each candidate.

* *Johnny Appleseed*, Jane Yolen. Harper Collins World, New York, NY, 2006.