

## Gifts of the Holy Spirit Activity

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this activity is to teach youth the gifts of the Holy Spirit and prepare them for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It may also be incorporated into a retreat for those receiving the sacrament of Confirmation.

### **Objective:**

The objective of this activity is for youth to develop knowledge of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Through an interactive activity, youth will more readily process the information and begin to understand the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is a great way to introduce the gifts of the Holy spirit or refresh their memories on them.

### **Materials:**

1. Seven Gift Bags
2. Starburst Candy (enough for the class)
3. Smarties (enough for the class)
4. Rose Petals (enough for the class)
5. Stick of Gum (enough for the class)
6. Card with "AHA" written on it (enough for the class)
7. Pretzels (enough for the class)
8. Suckers (enough for the class)
9. Sealed Envelopes (enough for the class)

**Note:** Items # 2 to 8 are placed in one of the seven gift bags (i.e. starburst all in one gift bag)

### **Procedure:**

1. Begin with a prayer to the Holy Spirit.
2. Inform the youth that today we will look at the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. They will already have explored the meaning of Confirmation and begun to learn about the sacrament. Youth in this activity will come to know the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit that they will receive. To do this, youth will be invited to sit in a circle so everyone is facing each other.
3. Write on the board or a sheet of paper (Bristol board or flip chart) the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Knowledge, Understanding, Wisdom, Courage, Reverence, Wonder, and Right Judgment).
4. With the youth facing each other and the gifts of the Holy Spirit on the board, take out the seven gift bags. Inform the youth that each bag represents one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. To make this activity interactive, have the youth guess what each of the items represent. For example, what gift of the Holy Spirit does a starburst candy represent? Show them the item to help their thinking process. Also, note that you do not have to hand out them in any particular order. Mix it up so they do not find a pattern. Once they have guessed correctly, give the students the "gift"

and then read the particular statement for that gift of the Holy Spirit (script). This is the procedure you will take for each of the gift bags.

5. After the gifts of the Holy Spirit have been handed out, give each of the youth one of the sealed envelopes. Inform them “this envelope represents you. Put all the gifts into it as a symbol that the Holy Spirit will give you these seven gifts at CONFIRMATION.” They will figure out the envelope is sealed. Ask them, what this means and how they are going to get the gifts of the spirit inside? From the discussion, youth will realize that they have to be open for the gifts of the Holy Spirit to enter inside them. Remind them that the disciples were frightened, confused, and their hearts and minds were closed. It is after Pentecost, when they received the Holy Spirit, that the disciples were finally open to the promptings of the Spirit. A discussion on this will open them up to seeing the gifts of the Holy Spirit that they will receive.

### **Receiving the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Script)**

**Knowledge** is the gift that helps us to know ourselves and the world around us. It helps us to know where our faith is leading us and what our church is about. “Knowledge” is the gift that makes us smart about ourselves. [smarties]

In Confirmation we receive the gift of **Understanding**. This helps us to untie the knots, to straighten out our lives, to deal with our problems. “Understanding” is letting the Word of God have room in our lives. [pretzels]

**Wisdom** is the gift of the Holy Spirit that helps us to see and understand God’s plan in our lives and in the world. It helps us to say, “Aha, I finally understand.” [AHA card]

**Courage** is the gift of the Holy Spirit that helps us walk out into the world and feel prepared. It gives us the stick-to-it-iveness to stand up for what we believe. [gum]

**Reverence** is the gift of the Holy Spirit that helps us to see God in everything around us. It teaches us to treat our fragile world gently. [flower petal]

**Wonder** is the gift of the Holy Spirit that keeps us awestruck by the power and beauty of God in our lives. “Wonder” and awe explode like a starburst when we let the Holy Spirit into our

**Right Judgment** is the gift of the Holy Spirit that encourages us to talk things over so that we can make choices that let us feel comfortable with ourselves afterwards. “Right Judgment” keeps us from feeling like suckers. [suckers]