

FAITH IN ACTION & THE HOLY SPIRIT

Confirmation resource 2 – Leaders' notes



A 60–90 minute session for Confirmation groups to explore what it means to put faith into action and to reflect on how the presence of the Holy Spirit supports us in our lives. Use the whole session or choose parts to fit with your programme, for example, with The Holy Spirit or Discipleship.

You will need:

- gifts of the Spirit each written on A4/A3 paper
- blu tac
- *Fr Ivo's film* (video at cafod.org.uk/confirmation) or *story*
- *Faith in action and the Holy Spirit case study cards.*

House/ child/ typhoon 10 mins

Try this game from the Philippines to break the ice and introduce the Holy Spirit's symbol of wind. A community from the Philippines taught CAFOD's Kate this game when she was supporting them in preparing for natural disasters. The aim is not to be the extra person!

Divide into threes, plus one extra person. In the threes, ask two people to join both sets of hands and make an arch or 'house'. The third person, or 'child', stands underneath the 'house'. The extra person should wait.

Then explain that, when you call out 'child', the people standing underneath the arches should run to find a new 'house'. Meanwhile, the extra person runs to find a 'house' too.

Explain that, when you call out 'house', the two people making the arch should all run and find a new partner to make a new 'house' over a new 'child'. Again, the new extra person runs to make a house.

Finally, explain that, when you call 'typhoon', everyone should move to make a new 'house' with a new 'child' and the extra person runs to join in. Make sure the group knows what a typhoon is – a tropical storm in the Indian/Western Pacific region. You could refer to a typhoon they have heard of, such as Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013.

After you have given the instructions, call out 'house', 'child' or 'typhoon' in a random order. To keep them involved, you could ask the extra person each time to call out the word. Keep the pace and energy high. Play up to ten rounds.

The Holy Spirit and Fr Ivo 15 mins

Write the gifts of the Holy Spirit (knowledge, understanding, wisdom, right judgement, courage, reverence, awe and wonder) on big pieces of paper and stick them up around the room.

Check the young people understand what they mean, then invite them to choose their top three – those which they think are most important to them personally. To vote, either give them three stickers each to put on the gifts they think are most important, or just ask them to draw a star on each of their top three. Bring the group back together, see which are most popular and discuss why.

Explain that Fr Ivo is from the Philippines and was sheltering in the school where he works when Typhoon Haiyan hit in November 2013. Show the young people Fr Ivo's film from cafod.org.uk/confirmation or read his story. Typhoon Haiyan was known as Yolanda in the Philippines.

Ask the group which gifts of the Spirit he showed during Typhoon Haiyan.





Explain that at Confirmation we receive the Holy Spirit who gives us the strength to carry out our mission as Christians to spread God's word and message of love and justice. One of the symbols for the Holy Spirit is wind. Ask the group to discuss in pairs, then feed back to the group, why wind is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Responses could include:

- At Pentecost the disciples heard wind.
- It shows the mysterious and invisible nature of the Holy Spirit.
- It shows that the Holy Spirit, and God, are all around us.
- We cannot see wind, or the Holy Spirit, but we can see its effects.
- The Greek word *pneuma*, meaning breath, is translated in the New Testament as spirit and is linked to the Spirit of God (John 20:22-23).
- Jesus used it as a symbol of spirit-filled people (John 3:8).
- For more detail, read Pope John Paul II's *Wind and Fire: Signs of the Spirit*.

Ask the group: "How do you think Fr Ivo feels about wind as a symbol of the Holy Spirit?" and "How do you feel about wind as a symbol of the Holy Spirit?"

Faith in action 20–30 mins

Explain that, at Confirmation, we renew our commitment to be disciples of the 21st century. We follow Jesus' example of sharing God's love and justice in the world. We get plenty of help along the way.

Divide into pairs or small groups. Give each group a *Faith in action and the Holy Spirit* case study card. By the end of this session each pair or small group will have become an expert on one person who has put their faith into action, and will have fed back to the group. You could do this in several ways:

Poster: give each group a big piece of paper, eg. A3/A2, and some coloured pens. Ask them to make a poster about the person on their card including the following information, then share the posters with the group.

- their situation ie. what country they are in
- what injustice they face
- what they believe or what motivates them
- how they put their faith into action
- what gifts of the Spirit they demonstrated
- their opinion of the person featured.



Role play: ask each group to create a short biopic/film/role-play about the life of the person on the card including the points above. Perform short plays to the group.

Hot seat: give the cards to individuals or pairs to read. Then provide each person/pair with the chance to sit on the 'hot seat' as the person on their card, perhaps with some props to help. Then each person/pair answers questions from the group as the person from their card.

Competition: have a competition - which of the people on the cards would the group like to come to talk at their next Confirmation session? Each group represents one person and then has to do a one minute 'pitch' to the leader to persuade them to invite their person. They should include who their person is and three good reasons why they should come to the next session. Discourage them from reading off the card, encourage to present reasons instead. The leader could present a prize for the most convincing pitch. Then invite everyone to vote for whom they would like to hear talk.

**Notes:**

- Some case studies are more complex. Read them first so you can allocate them appropriately.
- Broadly, the case studies reflect the following gifts of the Spirit: one - knowledge, two - understanding, three - wisdom, four - courage, five - right judgement, six - awe and wonder, seven - reverence, eight - wisdom, courage, right judgement.
- Want to link to Confirmation names? Why not use our CAFOD Saints prayer cards instead of the Faith in Action case study cards? Find them at cafod.org.uk/saints

My faith in action 10 mins

Introduce the *Revolutionary service challenge*, decide time limit and allow young people to choose the parts of the challenge they will take on and to start planning, if they are working with others.

There are lots of ways for young people to put faith into action with CAFOD; check out cafod.org.uk for current ideas.

Reflection and prayer 10 mins

Light a candle in the middle of your group, reminding that fire is another symbol of the Holy Spirit. Draw the group's attention to how the flame moves in the breeze.

Ask a young person to read the story of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) when the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit and were sent out to spread the Good News.

Give out yellow or orange post-it notes or flame-shaped pieces of paper and invite the young people to write down the gift of the Holy Spirit they would like to be more present in their lives to help them put their faith into action. Play *Come Holy Spirit* by Hillsong, *Spirit break out* by Tim Hughes or other reflective music whilst they do this, and give them a chance to reflect quietly.



Invite them to keep the post-it/paper in their pocket as a reminder that the Holy Spirit is always with them as they carry out their *Revolutionary service challenge*, and in their daily lives.

Alternatively, pass round a candle, inviting individuals to share their prayers when they are holding the candle, or join Fr Ivo in saying the Our Father. Finally, you could ask for God's blessing as the group goes out to answer the call to be disciples and put faith into action.

What shall we do next?

- *Revolutionary service challenge*.
- *Liturgy: serving others through love*.
- Campaign or fundraiser for CAFOD. Find resources at cafod.org.uk