The Holy Spirit Series: The Holy Spirit Empowers

Passage: Exodus 31:1-6, Judges 3:9-11

SERIES RECAP & INTRO
We are in our second week of the series **THE HOLY SPIRIT**. The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity who lives within us, empowering us when we trust in Jesus, revealing truth, and helping us obey God. The Spirit comforts, enlightens, and empowers us to live righteously and reflect Christ to the world.

CONTEXT: In the Old Testament, we see the Holy Spirit use people for a purpose. This shows that the Holy Spirit is powerful, but not yet permanent. The Spirit worked throughout the Old Testament, often by giving people special abilities to serve and lead his people. The Spirit's presence in certain people was a sign of God's call on their lives.

HOOK: Hold up your phone. Ask the students: *"What is the most frustrating thing that can happen to this piece of technology when you are right in the middle of doing something important?" This phone is amazing. It has an incredible camera, apps that can solve complex math problems, and the ability to connect me to people across the world. It has massive potential. But if it has a 0% battery, it's completely useless. To do what it was actually designed to do, it needs an external power source. A lot of times, we try to live our lives like a dead phone. We have big dreams, talents, and we want to do the right thing, but we try to do it all on our own internal battery. Eventually, we hit 1% and we crash. Today, we are looking at how the Holy Spirit acts as our ultimate power source—empowering our lives so we can actually live out our true potential."*

I. The Holy Spirit Empowers Us with Unique Talents. (Exodus 31:1-6)

- ➔ Moses was tasked with building the Tabernacle (God's earthly dwelling place), but it required incredibly intricate, master-level craftsmanship. God chose Bezalel to build the Tabernacle, the sacred tent where God would dwell. To do this, God filled Bezalel with the Spirit of God, giving him extraordinary wisdom, understanding, and skill in all kinds of crafts—like jewelry making, woodworking, and stone carving.

- ➔ **Application:** We often think the Holy Spirit only shows up for "spiritual" things like preaching or praying. But here, the very first person in the Bible described as "filled with the Spirit" was an artist! The Holy Spirit wants to empower your everyday talents—whether you are into graphic design, sports, coding, music, or academics. When you dedicate your skills to God, His Spirit empowers them to impact others.

- ➔ ***Discussion Question:*** What is a skill or hobby you enjoy that you can ask the Holy Spirit to empower?

II. The Spirit Empowers Us to Defeat Negative Patterns (Judges 3:9-11)

- ➔ After Joshua died, Israel fell into a vicious cycle of forgetting God, getting oppressed by enemies, and crying out for help. God raised up Othniel. The Bible says "The Spirit of the Lord came on him," giving him the power to lead Israel, defeat a heavy-handed oppressor king, and bring peace to the land for 40 years.
- ➔ **Application:** We all face "enemies" or toxic cycles—like dynamic peer pressure, addiction, toxic relationship habits, or anxiety. On our own, we get trapped in these cycles. The Holy Spirit provides the breaking power we need to overcome negative habits and step into true freedom. He is God living inside you, ready to plug you into His strength. Stop trying to run on your own empty battery. When you face a tough temptation, a scary conversation, or an opportunity to serve, stop and pray a simple prayer: *"Holy Spirit, I can't do this on my own. Please empower me right now."*

- ➔ ***Discussion Question:*** What is a negative pattern or habit that you face today where you need the Spirit's power to break free?

- ➔ **BIG IDEA**: **WE DON'T RELY ON OUR EFFORTS. THE SPIRIT GIVES US STRENGTH.**

- ➔ The Holy Spirit gives these gifts to empower us to build up the church, help others, and point people back to Jesus. You are never too young to be used by God, because the Spirit's power isn't limited by your age. The Holy Spirit points to Jesus and is apparent in our transformation in our lives. Jesus didn't just give us a set of rules; He gave us His Holy Spirit to **empower** us. True, lasting spiritual impact only happens when we stop relying on our own efforts and start leaning into the daily strength of the Holy Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
(If you didn't use the discussion questions during the lesson, you can also use those now.)

1. Which of these two stories (Bezalel the artist, Othniel the judge) do you relate to the most right now?
2. What is an area of your life where you feel like you are relying on your own strength instead of the Holy Spirit?
3. What is a skill or hobby you enjoy that you can ask the Holy Spirit to empower?
4. What is a negative pattern or habit that you face today where you need the Spirit's power to break free?
5. How can we practically invite the Holy Spirit to empower our talents this week at school or at home?