

### INTRODUCTION

Hello, friend!

Have you ever wondered what heaven is like? Or how the Holy Spirit works in your life? Well, get ready, because in these pages you will live a great adventure alongside Luca, a very curious boy, and his friend, the angel Orel.

Together they will walk through the New Jerusalem, meet Bible characters such as Moses, Joshua, David, Stephen, Paul, and even John the Baptist. Each of them will tell how the Holy Spirit was unleashed in special moments of their lives. And the best part is that you will discover that this same Spirit also wants to be unleashed in you!

Sometimes, the unleashed Spirit gives us extraordinary abilities; other times He helps us to be courageous leaders or invites us to read and understand the Bible. He also motivates us to care for our health, strengthens us when we suffer, restores us when we fail, and always inspires us to fulfill the mission of sharing Jesus.

In every chapter you will find fun activities: painting, drawing, writing phrases, praying, and even doing small challenges to share with your family and friends. All of this so that you don't just read a story, but live it!

So open your eyes wide, set your heart ready, and join Luca and Orel on this journey. They will show you that the Holy Spirit is not a distant mystery, but a close friend who wants to be with you every day and be powerfully unleashed in your life.

Wow! Are you ready? Then...

Let's get to work!

### Title:

The Holy Spirit Is Unleashed

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## The Spirit was **UNLEASHED**

Wow! My ears are still ringing... so many trumpets blasted together! It was incredible to feel the earth tremble at the sound of Jesus' voice. From the ground, people were rising, shining with extraordinary light. Joyful angels were bringing the redeemed out of the graves and embracing their friends for the very first time. Suddenly, a light like a rainbow covered me. At first, I was scared, but then I realized that several around me also began to shine like I did... I felt an unimaginable peace, my body was being restored, I was filled with complete happiness. I really don't know how to describe it... Wow!

"Luca! Luca! I'm talking to you," said Orel.

"Sorry, Orel, I'm still in awe... Everything is wonderful here," Luca replied, walking toward a beautiful tree that had caught his attention.

"I know, Luca. I've waited so long to talk to you and show you the New Jerusalem," Orel said as he ran after Luca. "You were always so curious, little child! Though you didn't know it, I've been caring for you for a little more than eight years." Orel laughed joyfully and hugged Luca.

"Thank you, Orel... I like your name... Orel... What does it mean?"

"Orel means 'Light of God.' I was given that name a long time ago... but I'll tell you the story another time. Luca, I just saw someone I want you to meet," Orel said as he took Luca by the hand and led him toward someone special.

Standing before this special person, Luca realized it was Jesus. He opened his mouth to say something, but words wouldn't come out—he was so excited! He had seen Jesus return to Earth in great glory and power and now he was standing right in front of Him.

"Oh, my dear Luca," said Jesus with a great smile. "In heaven we all love to talk a lot," Jesus laughed. "I'm so happy you're here. Thank you, Orel, for accompanying him."

Luca ran and hugged Jesus, tears of joy streaming down his face. In that moment, all he could manage to say was, "Thank you!" He repeated it over and over again, "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you, Jesus!"

"Oh, my precious son!" Jesus said tenderly. "I did everything for you. You believed in Me, you listened to My voice, and even as a child, you didn't hesitate to give Me your heart. The Holy Spirit convinced you and worked in your heart, and that's why you're here now. We will have eternity to talk, play, laugh, and learn together."

"The Holy Spirit? I never really understood about Him... On Earth, no one explained it to me," replied Luca, looking at Jesus with eyes brimming with tears of joy.

Jesus turned to speak with Orel, "Dear Orel, shine the light of God upon this child so he can learn





about the Holy Spirit. I leave this important task in your hands."

"Of course, my Lord Jesus," Orel replied joyfully. "I'll do my very best."

Jesus said goodbye to the two of them and continued on His way.

"Luca, now that you're in heaven, it's important for you to know about the Holy Spirit," Orel said as he made a kind of thin glass appear in the air. "Here, let me show you a text from the Bible. If I'm not mistaken it's recorded in... yes... here it is... John 14:16–17." Orel said all this while moving his finger on the floating glass.

Luca came closer to read what appeared on the glass. At first glance, he saw some strange letters. Orel told him it was ancient Greek. As he made the effort to read the text, he realized he understood it all!

He read, "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."

"When the Lord Jesus was on Earth," Orel told Luca, "He knew He couldn't remain with His disciples forever. As a human being, Jesus couldn't use all His power. For that reason, He promised to send the Holy Spirit to accompany and guide us."

"How interesting all this is, Orel!" said Luca with great excitement. "I was curious to know more about the Holy Spirit..."

"Well then... When Jesus ascended to heaven, the Holy Spirit was fully unleashed and sent to Earth to guide everyone to Jesus," Orel continued. "The Spirit worked silently but very powerfully. You are an example of His work, dear Luca! That's why you're here with me in heaven now!"

"Wow! I want to know everything about Him! Orel, tell me more," said the curious Luca.

"I just thought of a better idea," Orel said quickly. "I'll introduce you to some people who can share their own experiences with the Holy Spirit."

"I can't wait any longer!" said Luca as Orel showed him a floating map of the New Jerusalem. A red dot was flashing in a place near where they were.

"All right, get ready! We'll both enjoy meeting these people... Follow me!" Orel said as he ran ahead of Luca toward the point marked on the map.

"Let's go!"



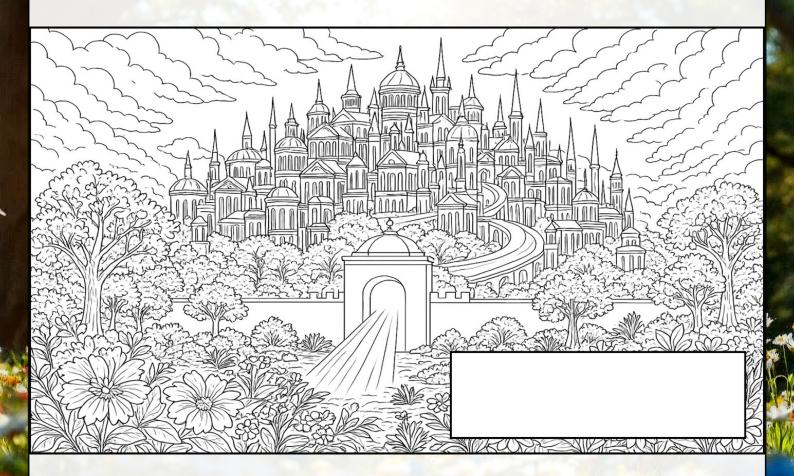


### I read today's devotional!





Read the text in Revelation 21:2 and paint the image of the New Jerusalem. In your own handwriting, write in the box the phrase: "I want to live here." Cut out the image and place it somewhere visible in your house or room.





- 1. Pray to know the Holy Spirit better and for Him to be unleashed in your life.
- 2. Pray for Jesus to return soon so we can live with Him for eternity.

# The UNLEASHED SPIRIT Gives Us Extraordinary Abilities

"We've run several hundred miles!" said Luca as he came up to Orel. "It's incredible that I don't feel tired—in fact, I want to keep running!"

"Your human abilities have been restored to their maximum potential here, dear Luca," Orel replied as he looked at the floating map and searched around the beautiful Garden where they were.

"Did you say restored? What do you mean?" Luca quickly asked.

"In the beginning, God created Adam and Eve perfect. They had all their abilities at their highest level and were very healthy," said Orel.

"However, when they disobeyed God, they turned away from Him, and sin disrupted God's beautiful plan for them".

"In your generation, people's abilities were diminished because of sin. Imagine what more than 6,000 years of sin can do to the human body and to nature itself!" Orel continued. "But that will be a long conversation for another time... We've arrived at the right place."

At that moment, Luca noticed the beautiful garden they had reached. There were flowers of many shapes that changed colors depending on the position of the sun. The walls of the nearby buildings were made of glass, metals and precious stones, some of which Luca had never seen up close during his life on Earth.

"All this is amazing, Orel," said Luca as he closely examined one of the crystal walls that decorated the garden. "Have you seen the amount of detail in this wall? There are tiny golden and silver threads interwoven along flowers carved in emeralds. Wow! I had never seen an emerald before—they are beautiful..."

"Oh! I'm so sorry," said Luca as he looked in surprise at the man he had just bumped into.

The man stood up and began to laugh loudly. "It's not your fault, little boy," he said cheerfully. "It's my fault for being distracted by all the special details of this place. Every day I discover something new that captures my attention."

"Oh! Luca! You found Bezale!" said Orel excitedly. "I wanted to introduce him to you, but I see you already greeted each other with your heads!" Orel mentioned, laughing.

"Bezalel! What a privilege to meet you," said Luca.

"The privilege is mine," Bezalel replied as he looked at Orel with interest, who was quickly searching for something on the floating glass with his fingers.





"Here it is, I found it!" Orel said, pointing to a text written in strange letters. "It's in ancient Hebrew, but I don't think you'll have any trouble understanding it."

The two leaned in and read it easily.

At the top it said Exodus 31:1–5: "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts."

"Oh yes, that's me," Bezalel said joyfully. "I was greatly blessed by God on Earth."

"Tell me how you were used by the Holy Spirit," said Luca. "I really want to know."

"From a very young age, I loved playing and working with all kinds of stones and interesting materials," Bezalel replied, looking at Luca. "When I grew older, I realized I had great skill to create beautiful things with my hands. So, I decided to be faithful to God in everything and I wholeheartedly desired to use my abilities in His service.

"God heard my prayers and unleashed His Holy Spirit upon me. A great leader named Moses called me to work on the greatest construction project in the universe. I, along with some of my friends, had the privilege of building God's temporary dwelling, so that His presence could be among His beloved children. When we desire to serve the Lord with all our hearts, He multiplies our abilities through His Spirit," Bezalel concluded.

"You did the most precious work ever made on Earth at that time," Orel told Bezalel. "Your hands were able to make a little house for God—what a privilege!"

"You are a great artist!" said Luca. "Now I understand why you were looking at the details of the wall in this garden. I learned so much from your experience, Bezalel. Thank you."

"You're welcome, little boy," Bezalel replied. "May the Spirit also be unleashed upon your abilities so that you keep growing in the knowledge of God. Especially here in heaven, there is so much to study and learn! Here knowledge never ends!"

Orel and Luca said goodbye to Bezalel, who continued carefully examining the beautiful crystal wall.

"Ready to meet the next person?" Orel asked, while a red dot blinked on the floating map.

"Let's go!" Luca replied excitedly.





### I read today's devotional!





What abilities do you have?	What abilities would you like to have?

- 1. Using one of the abilities you already have, do something good for a person who doesn't know Jesus.
- 2. Choose an ability you would like to have and make a card asking Jesus to give you that ability to be used in His service. Place the card in a visible place in your home.



- 1. Pray that the Holy Spirit may be unleashed in your life and give you extraordinary abilities.
- 2. Pray that Jesus may give you opportunities to use your abilities to lead your family and friends to heaven.

# The UNLEASHED SPIRIT Equips Us to Lead

The blinking red dot on the map stopped at the edge of a great river. There were many people on both sides of the river. Lions, lambs, and many other animals were playing peacefully with the people there. Everything was calm, and there was so much peace.

"What is this place, Orel?" Luca asked, intrigued.

"We are on the riverbank of the Water of Life," Orel quickly replied. "This river flows through the entire New Jerusalem, and the most amazing part is that it comes straight from the very throne of God!"

"Wow! What a beautiful place," said Luca as he ran to hug the leg of a giraffe that was eating fruit from a huge tree by the river.

Many people came closer when they saw the giraffe's enormous tongue kindly lick Luca's head. The giraffe had greeted him friendly but left him covered in slobber.

"Here, use this to clean yourself," said Orel, handing Luca a very soft cloth. "It's made from a super-absorbent material that's produced in..."

Someone interrupted him, "What the boy really needs is a good dip in the river. That giraffe greeted me the same way the first time I met her," said a man, looking at Orel.

Luca noticed something special about this man. His face shone with a gentle light, his gaze radiated love, and his voice carried peace.

"Who are you?" Luca asked. "Somehow I feel like I know you."

"You are standing before the famous Moses," Orel replied.

"Famous? Me?" Moses said with a smile on his face. "I've been here for several years now, ever since God resurrected me and brought me to live with Him. That's why I know this loving giraffe firsthand. Come, Luca, wash yourself in the waters of the river."

Luca followed him to the riverbank and was amazed at the perfection and calmness of the water. It was like crystal and yet liquid at the same time. Moses knelt down, scooped up some water with both hands, and sprinkled it over Luca. "Wow! How refreshing!" He felt completely clean, but how?

"Luca, you're standing before Moses. Let's not waste the chance to learn from him," Orel said as he approached with the floating glass, a text of the Bible was highlighted.

"There's one particular scene from Moses' life that will help us understand the Holy Spirit." Luca read aloud Numbers 11:16–17, "The Lord said to Moses: 'Bring me seventy of Israel's elders who





are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the tent of meeting, that they may stand there with you. I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take some of the power of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them. They will share the burden of the people with you so that you will not have to carry it alone."

"Oh!" said Moses. "I remember writing that so many years ago. Praise be to our good God who fulfilled everything He promised us! Luca, I'm amazed at your ability with ancient Hebrew... Astounding!"

"Moses, the Holy Spirit was upon you, and God shared Him with the others? Wow!" Luca hurried to ask, "Were you the first among the Hebrew people to receive Him? That must have been supernatural. How did you feel? What could you do? Were you afraid?"

"Dear child," said Moses, "your questions bring so many memories and stories to mind. I was just an ordinary man who tried to do his best for God. I failed many times, but the Lord in His mercy forgave and restored me. Was I afraid? Of course! I left Egypt with more than 2 million people, a difficult people. I didn't know what to do, and if it hadn't been for the Spirit of God guiding me, I don't know how my story would have ended.

"God unleashed His Spirit upon me to lead His people through the Red Sea and the desert. The problems were huge! We had no food, little water, and there were dangerous animals that wanted to harm us. The people spoke against God. For this reason, the Lord chose other men to help me lead the Hebrew people, and He gave His Spirit to all of them too, so they could do things the right way.

"The Spirit of God equipped us to bring the people to Canaan—the Promised Land. I didn't enter that land, but I entered this heavenly land! God keeps His promises! The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to lead the people of God!"

"Wow, Moses! That's extraordinary! I don't think there is another man with the experiences you've had," said Luca. "I want to hear all your stories."

"Of course! Whenever you want to talk, I'll be waiting by that tree whose roots reach both sides of the river." Luca eyes opened wide when he realized that the tree Moses pointed to was the Tree of Life. In his mind, new questions were already forming.

Orel noticed this and said, "Luca, it's time to go. We must reach a very distant place." He pointed to the floating map. Now the map was no longer flat. There were small glowing spheres, and a red dot rested on one of them.

"Are we going to another planet?" Luca asked excitedly.

Orel smiled and, in Moses' same tone, said: "Of course! What are we waiting for?" Both of them said goodbye to Moses and left the galaxy.





### I read today's devotional!



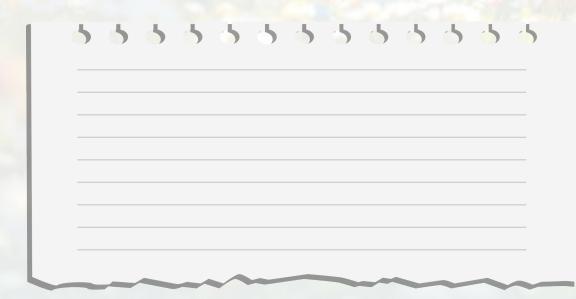




- 1. On a sheet of paper, draw and color one of the scenes from Moses' life that impressed you the most. It could be about the plagues that fell on Egypt, how he opened the Red Sea, how manna fell from heaven, etc.
- 2. Send your drawing to your pastor or church elder. On the back, write a message of encouragement for their task of leading the church. Tell them that you promise to pray for the Spirit to be unleashed upon them so that they may be leaders who guide the church toward Jesus.



- 1. Pray that the Holy Spirit may be unleashed in your life and make you a powerful leader in the Adventist Church in the end times of the world.
- 2. Pray that Jesus may give you opportunities to use your leadership to prepare many people to be ready for the Second Coming of Christ.



# The UNLEASHED SPIRIT Always Leads Us to the Bible

"Hold on tight," said Orel. "We're about to arrive."

Luca looked everywhere while holding Orel's hand firmly. They were flying through the vastness of space. Luca had seen incredible things! They passed close to stars made of fire, and nothing happened to them. Wow!

At first, Luca had been counting the number of planets, but after a while, he lost track of the endless lights, colors, and flashes of the stars. They had already been traveling for several days. This was out of this world!

"We've arrived," said Orel as they approached a huge sky-blue planet with rings and several moons. "We're going to enter here," he said, pointing to a part of the planet. Their descent was quick. In just minutes, they were standing in a beautiful valley full of enormous trees with delicious-looking fruit.

"I've been waiting for you," said a calm voice. "I've been here for a few days. My friend Moses told me you were coming, so I took a break to meet you."

"Thank you so much for waiting for us!" Orel quickly replied. "Dear Luca, I present to you Joshua, the successor of Moses and the man who led the Hebrews into Canaan, the Promised Land, at that time."

"Wow! You were one of my favorite Bible characters! What a privilege to meet you, Joshua!" Luca said happily. "I think you were the favorite of many people on Earth."

"It's not that big of a deal," Joshua answered cheerfully. "God gave me many privileges in my earthly life. Praise His Name forever! I tried to do God's will by following His Word."

"That's right!" Orel said as he brought up the floating glass with a Bible text highlighted. "Joshua, we're investigating what the Holy Spirit did when He was unleashed on Earth, and I found an interesting reference about you."

Orel began to read Deuteronomy 34:9, "Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses."

"Oh yes! I remember that day. I was very nervous," said Joshua. "My friend Moses told me that the Lord had chosen me to be the new leader of the Hebrew people. How was I supposed to replace the great Moses?! I felt unworthy, but the Spirit was unleashed upon me and strengthened me. God gave me the secret to be victorious in life."

"Let me show you," Joshua said, searching for another text in Orel's floating glass. "I wrote it in my book of the Bible. Here, here it is—the secret, in Joshua 1:8–9."





He began to read with great emotion, "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

"The most important thing I learned through the Holy Spirit," Joshua said excitedly, "was that I must always study the Bible. That was my secret to leading the people. Every day I sought the outpouring of the Spirit in my life by meditating on the Words of God."

"It's true, Joshua!" Luca said. "I remember when I learned to read, Mom and Dad encouraged me to read the Bible every day. I learned so much about God's love! There were things I didn't understand at first, but little by little I came to understand them."

"Exactly! That happens because the Spirit is unleashed upon those who want to know God, and He helps them understand the Bible," Joshua said reverently. "The Holy Spirit inspired the writing of the Bible, and it is the same Spirit who delights in revealing Jesus."

"I loved watching you study the Bible since you were little, dear Luca!" Orel said earnestly. "You couldn't see me, but I was there, happy, knowing you were a boy with a good heart, seeking Jesus."

"Thank you, Joshua, for reminding me of those beautiful moments I spent reading the Bible," Luca said to Joshua. "And thank you, Orel, for your company. The Bible already told me I wasn't alone, 'the angels of the Lord' were by my side. Wow!"

"Little one, how wonderful that you made the Bible your map," Joshua said cheerfully. "That's why you're in heaven—because you came to know personally the Author, who is Jesus.

"What is Orel doing?" Said Joshua.

"We have to go, Luca. I already have our next destination," Orel said, showing the floating map with another blinking red dot. "It seems we're going back to the New Jerusalem."

"Oh, how nice!" Joshua said. "I'll be heading back there soon. I'm in a race with my mission partner, I think you know him, his name is Caleb. On Earth, he loved conquering mountains. Here, he wants to be the first to explore all the worlds!" Joshua laughed heartily. "Well, I must go too. Caleb is already a few days ahead of me. Safe travels, friends!"

"Safe travels, Joshua!" Orel and Luca said at the same time.

And once again, they traveled faster than the speed of light through the universe.



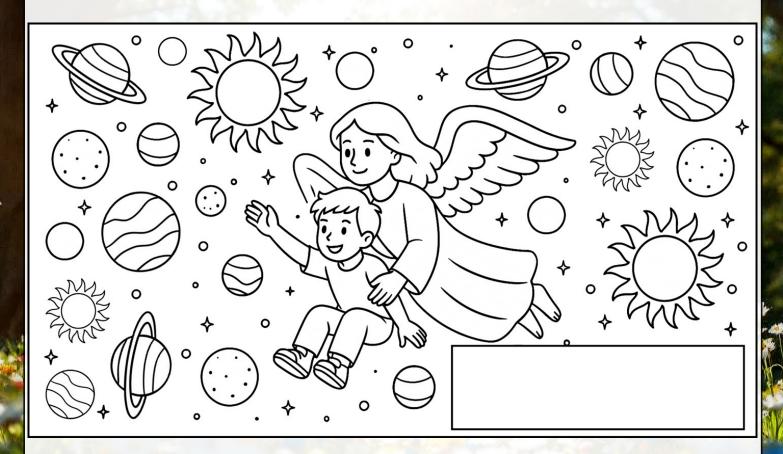






Read Hebrews 1:2 and paint the image of the great journey through the universe. In your own handwriting, write in the box the phrase:

"I will travel through the universe." Cut out the image and place it somewhere visible in your house or room.





- 1. Pray that the Holy Spirit may be unleashed in your life and give you the desire to study the Bible every single day.
- 2. Pray that the Holy Spirit may help you know Jesus through the Bible.



# UNLEASHED SPIRIT

### Restores Us Despite Our Mistakes

"Wow! Super wow! What is this place?" Luca asked with great curiosity. "It's all so beautiful! And what is that over there?"

"We are in the throne room of God in the New Jerusalem," Orel said with deep reverence.

"This place is one of the most sacred in the whole universe, dear Luca. Do you remember the River of the Water of Life we saw some time ago?"

"Yes, it's impossible to forget," said Luca, looking at Orel.

"This is where the river begins—look," Orel said, pointing to the lower part of the immense golden throne that stood at the center of the great hall.

"I see it, yes—it looks like crystal clear. Does that mean we are in the center of the New Jerusalem? This place is incredible, Orel! What did we come here to do?" asked Luca.

"Not what, but who we came to see here," Orel replied with a smile. "Let me tell you something about myself. I am one of the angels who sing in the heavenly choir for God. My place is on one of these central platforms. It is a great privilege."

"You have to teach me how to sing!" said Luca excitedly. "I was never good at music or singing... I wish I had learned on Earth."

"It is never too late to learn, little one—especially when you have all eternity to do so," said a very handsome man, dressed in a beautiful robe.

"There you are, dear friend!" Orel said, opening his arms to embrace the man. "Luca, I present to you King David."

"Really? I can't believe it! King David himself—what a privilege!" Luca exclaimed.

"Yes, I'm real," David laughed joyfully. "But in heaven, I am not a king. There is only one King and Lord, our Savior Jesus."

Orel lit up the floating glass to show a Bible text. "This time I found it quickly. David has so many verses connected to his name," Orel said excitedly. "Please, my friend David, would you read this verse?"

David read aloud 1 Samuel 16:13, "So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah."

"I remember that day," said David. "My brothers and my father were so surprised..."





"My dear friend David, Luca is learning about the Holy Spirit and how He worked with human beings on Earth," Orel said. "Could you tell us about your experience?"

"Oh friends, what could I say that you don't already know from the Bible?!" David said thoughtfully. "I was just a young shepherd boy, the youngest of all my brothers, and God chose me to be the King of Israel even though I was very young. The Holy Spirit anointed me and helped me develop many abilities.

"I became skilled in politics and leadership over Israel; I was a master composer of music; I loved building beautiful places. I became very famous, and the people loved me... and little by little, my heart drifted away from God.

"I did terrible things. As king, I was supposed to be the spiritual example for the people of Israel, but for a long time I became proud, deceitful, and even a criminal. I killed an innocent, honorable man just to take his wife."

Orel and Luca listened very attentively to David's words.

"Where was the young boy who had been anointed by the Holy Spirit?" David said, while heavy tears ran down his face. "Truly, friends, I am not crying for what I just told you, but my tears are tears of gratitude, because our good God forgave me and gave me another chance despite my mistakes.

"Jesus cleansed me, and after those terrible experiences in my life, the Holy Spirit was unleashed upon me again to help turn the people of Israel away from their evil ways and back to God with all their hearts."

"What an intense and powerful story!" Luca said, wiping his tears with the edge of his robe.

"Thank you so much, David, because through your experience we've learned great lessons... God is good, He forgives us, and His Spirit restores us."

"That's right, little one. God is good—so good that He allows me to be near His throne and the angelic choir," David said, looking reverently at the place of the throne. "I'm composing some songs for the choir; hopefully, one day the angels will sing them for our God."

"Of course we will sing your songs, David," Orel said with a big smile. "The angels know of your great musical talent. Perhaps soon you'll join us as well. Time has flown quickly, Luca, we must leave for another place."

The map already showed a blinking red dot to the east of the New Jerusalem.

"I'll visit you again, David," Luca said. "Thank you so much!"

"You know where to find me," David said with a wink. "Goodbye, friends!"





### I read today's devotional!





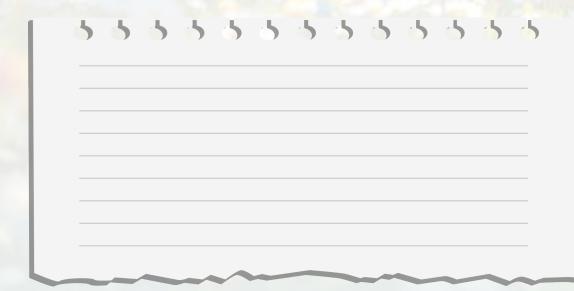


The story of David shows us that God can forgive and cleanse us from all the wrong we've done. That's why today's challenge is divided into two groups:

- Are you baptized? Do this: Talk with your pastor or elder to find out when the next Lord's Supper will be held at your church. Participate and receive once again the forgiveness of your sins.
- Not baptized yet? Do this: Talk with your parents, pastor, or Christian teacher about the possibility of being baptized. Take a Bible course to learn more about Jesus and make the decision to give Him your heart.



- 1. Pray that the Holy Spirit may be unleashed in your life and cleanse you from every wrong thought and action.
- 2. Pray that the Holy Spirit may help you remain always faithful to Jesus.





# The UNLEASHED SPIRIT Motivates Us to Live in Health

Bushes full of flowers and fruits all lined up in perfect order, divided by their kind and species. Beautiful butterflies shining in the sunlight, fluttering everywhere. The most incredible birds are running or flying freely across the vast and beautiful field.

"We have arrived at the Heavenly Meadow!" Orel said, pointing toward the bushes. "Although there are delicious fruit trees scattered throughout the New Jerusalem, here almost every variety of fruit and vegetables are planted and harvested to feed all the residents of the Holy City."

"Wow! I just hope broccoli tastes good here!" Luca laughed loudly. "On Earth, we used to eat meat, but I see that here no one needs that."

"The answer is simple," said a man stepping out from among the bushes. He wore a beautiful white robe with a red border at the hem.

"When God created the Earth, He designed human beings to eat only plants and seeds. In them they would find everything necessary to live in health. But with the entrance of sin, humanity moved away from God's ideal plan and began killing animals for food."

"God allowed meat to be introduced into the human diet after the flood," Orel added.

"There weren't many options for vegetables after the flood! But even then, God established what was clean to eat and what was not. Yet people continued to drift away from God's original plan, and this brought serious consequences to their health."

"There's no need to remember the sad past! Everything is new here!" the man said, extending a hand to Luca. "My name is John. On Earth they called me John the Baptist, but here in heaven everyone is already baptized by the Holy Spirit." John laughed joyfully. "So, I don't have much baptizing work to do here, right?"

"John the Baptist! What an enormous privilege!" Luca said with excitement. "The one who prepared the way for Jesus to come to Earth. Wow! My name is Luca, and this is Orel."

"Pleased to meet you!" John said, shaking their hands. "I often come here. I love feeling the wind and being surrounded by nature. In the quiet, I can meditate and learn more about my good Jesus. He was my cousin on Earth, but I always knew He was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world—and He did!"

Orel came closer to Luca, holding the floating glass where a Bible verse was highlighted. "Here's an interesting verse about our friend John." With his finger he pointed to Luke 1:15 and read, "... for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born."

"What memories!" John said. "My father Zechariah couldn't believe it, and God took away his





voice until the day I was born. We still tease him about that..."

"We're learning about the Holy Spirit," Orel told John. "Your case is interesting, John. You were chosen before you were born to prepare people's hearts to accept Jesus as the promised Messiah. The Spirit was unleashed in your life even from your mother's womb. What did that mean for you?"

"From a very young age, my parents taught me to fear God and showed me the ministry I was to carry out," John replied. "The Spirit was unleashed upon me and motivated me to live simply and in good health so I could face the challenges of preaching a message no one wanted to hear—especially to the political and religious leaders during my time on Earth.

"It was very hard... I lived a life full of persecution, mistreatment, and rejection by most people. But my greatest joy was knowing that Jesus truly was the Messiah God had promised through His prophets. He fulfilled every description perfectly.

"I had to hold on until He became the greatest—the Light who shines in the world and removes the darkness." John spoke all this with great emotion in his voice.

"I had a tragic ending on Earth... They cut off my head, and my eyes closed... until I was resurrected with the righteous and saw my Savior in the clouds of heaven. Everything I suffered on Earth seems insignificant compared to what we live here in heaven with Jesus."

"Wow!" Luca said. "I don't know if I could have endured everything you went through, John..."

"The Spirit showed me I needed a healthy body," John answered. "I climbed and descended mountains. I walked hundreds of miles carrying God's message. That helped me a lot—it gave me physical, mental, and spiritual strength. As the verse said, I was prepared from before I was born for this task."

"Your story is unique, John," said Luca. "What will you dedicate yourself to now in heaven?"

"Good question, Luca," John smiled. "I want to learn everything about nature. I'm curious about how plants produce flowers, and then how flowers become fruit. I'm learning so much here in the Heavenly Meadow. Anyway, I have eternity to discover all the mysteries of God's creation."

"We'll have many opportunities to keep talking, dear John," Orel said as the red dot blinked again on the floating map. "Luca, it's time to go. Let's go!"

"Thank you, John, for explaining more about the Holy Spirit," Luca said. "I'm sure we'll meet again."

Both of them left for their next destination.





### I read today's devotional!



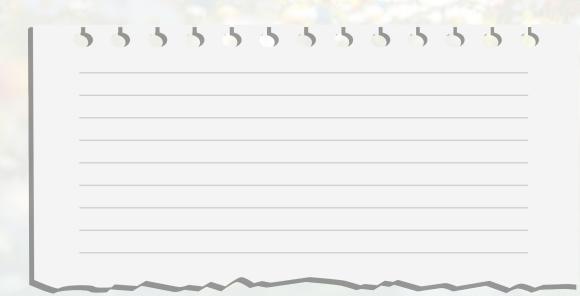




- 1. Prepare a basket with healthy foods and give it to someone in need.
- 2. Ask your parents or teachers to go with you when you deliver the basket.
- 3. Pray for that person, and ask your parents or teachers to help you find Bible verses about faith in Jesus to read to those who are going through difficult times.



- 1. Pray that the Holy Spirit may be unleashed in your life and give you the motivation to live in health.
- 2. Pray that the Holy Spirit may help you be a powerful instrument in preaching the message of Jesus.





# The UNLEASHED SPIRIT Strengthens Us in Suffering

"They're made of pearls!" Luca exclaimed in amazement as he passed through one of the enormous gates of the New Jerusalem.

"Gates of pearls! Wow! If you look at them from one side, they look pinkish... If you tilt your head, they turn violet... And if you look at them straight on, they seem whitish with a touch of greenish-blue."

"Impressive, isn't it?" Orel said. "There are twelve gates—three on each side of the City—and every one of them is just as beautiful. I've already seen them all."

"Jesus really is a genius architect," Luca laughed as he tried to spot a new reflection color in the gate they had just passed through.

Not far from them stood a man, facing the horizon with his head lifted high.

"Come on, Luca, I'll introduce you to Stephen," Orel said, walking toward him.

"Orel... his robe has the same red border at the bottom as the one John was wearing," Luca said curiously. "I haven't seen many robes like that. Mine is completely white. What does it mean?"

"Hello, Stephen," Orel said. "We're glad to find you."

"Oh, hello servants of the Lord!" Stephen answered tenderly. "You are an angel, and you—a redeemed one. May I know who you are?"

"My name is Luca, and this is my angel Orel," Luca answered immediately. "It's a great honor to meet you, Stephen. We are on a journey learning about the works of the Holy Spirit unleashed in people's lives."

"What a beautiful adventure! I think I'll do the same too," Stephen said, excited. "The Spirit was unleashed in my life when I accepted Jesus, and He led me through very intense and important moments. He also powerfully comforted me when my end came."

"A moment ago, Luca was asking about the difference in your robe," Orel said, pointing to the red border at the hem of Stephen's robe.

"It is a special distinction of honor given to us by Jesus," Stephen replied solemnly. "It represents those of us who gave our lives for our faith in Jesus. On Earth, they called us martyrs; here in heaven, we are a symbol of faithfulness to Christ. The red color represents our blood, shed for doing the work of Jesus."

"Stephen is considered the first Christian martyr," Orel told Luca while searching for a text on the floating glass where Bible verses appeared. "Luca, please read this, Acts 7:55."





Luca read aloud. It was in ancient Greek, but by now he was used to reading ancient biblical languages: "But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God."

"That was the last moment of my life on Earth," Stephen said thoughtfully. "I went through much suffering for my faith in Jesus. At that time there were many people with evil intentions against those of us who followed Him."

"The same happened in my time," Luca said quickly. "Many people made life difficult for Christians who wanted to remain faithful to Jesus."

"That's right! You wanted to know about the work of the Spirit in my life," Stephen continued. "It's truly incredible... The Holy Spirit was unleashed upon me, and I became a great evangelist of Jesus. I was a powerful instrument in His hands. Many people came to Christ through the miracles the Spirit did through me.

"The opposition and suffering I constantly faced meant nothing to me, because I knew my good Jesus would one day bring me to live with Him in the New Jerusalem for eternity. And so it happened!

"At the end of my earthly life—in the moment of greatest fear and suffering—the Spirit was unleashed upon me and gave me the vision of Jesus waiting for me in heaven. With that assurance in mind, I felt nothing of my enemies' attack... I closed my eyes and fell asleep in the rest of the righteous.

"When I opened my eyes again, I was restored, and I found Jesus right here, at this very gate of the City, and He welcomed me! That's why I come here so often. It reminds me of how good Jesus has been to me. He Himself gave me this robe with the red border. I feel so undeserving of such honor."

"What an extraordinary story, Stephen!" Luca said, with tears in his eyes. "I can only imagine what you went through for Jesus."

"We learned that the Holy Spirit accompanied and comforted the faithful followers of Jesus," Orel said as he activated the floating map. "Thank you so much for your time, Stephen."

"It was my privilege to share this moment with you," Stephen said with a big smile. "Come back anytime."

"Where are we going now, Orel?" Luca asked, looking at the blinking red dot to the south of the City. "Another spiritual adventure? I'm learning so much from these conversations!

Who will surprise us next? Let's go!"





### I read today's devotional!





Use your creativity to make a special card with a message of encouragement for someone who is going through hard times. Tell them that Jesus loves them and wants to be with them forever. Ask your parents, pastor, or teacher to help you deliver the card.



- 1. Pray that the Holy Spirit may be unleashed in your life and give you strength to go through the problems you may face.
- 2. Pray that the Holy Spirit may help you always trust in Jesus.

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# The UNLEASHED SPIRIT Drives Us to Mission

The floating map showed they had arrived...

"It's right here," Orel said, pointing to the South Wall of the New Jerusalem. "But I can't quite see where the person we're looking for is."

"I'm sure he'll show up soon," Luca said, gazing at the tall wall of the city, which was made of jasper. The wall reflected varied colors—red, yellow, brown, and dark blue. "Look at the wall—it's truly amazing."

"Not just the wall—have you seen the foundations?" Orel asked, looking all around as he kept watch for the person who, according to the map, should be nearby.

"Wow! So many precious stones! I only recognize some of them.

Here is jasper, like in the wall, and these green ones must be emeralds. And there are several of deep blue color—they must be sapphires..."

Out of nowhere, a man appeared behind Luca and said, "Little boy, you have a very good eye for details—and I must add, a very curious mind."

"Luca, let me introduce you to Philip the Evangelist," Orel said with a wide smile. "He always enjoys making dramatic entrances and today is no exception. For a moment, I thought my map had an error. But how good to find you, Philip—or was it you who found us?"

"I saw you arrive a few minutes ago and wanted to surprise you," Philip said with a smile.

"I remember reading somewhere that you were guided directly by the Holy Spirit," Luca said thoughtfully. "Orel, what does the Bible say about Philip?"

"It says many things, Luca. Philip was a powerful instrument in God's hands," Orel said, searching for a text on the floating glass.

"You're talking about me while I'm standing right here!" Philip laughed. "I can tell you myself how miraculous it was to work with the Holy Spirit. I have so much to share."

"We're learning about what the Holy Spirit did when He was unleashed in the lives of some of Jesus' followers," Luca said enthusiastically. "In your case, the Spirit used you in the mission of evangelism—bringing people to the feet of Jesus."

"That's right!" Orel said. "Here's a special moment we want to know about. I'll read Acts 8:29. The Bible says, 'The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." Did the Spirit really lead you directly to a person to evangelize them?"



"Oh yes! It was definitely the Holy Spirit!" Philip quickly responded. "Ever since I met Jesus, my heart burned with the desire for Him to return soon. Listening to the apostles, I understood that for Him to return, the gospel had to be preached in every nation, tribe, language, and people.

"So I committed myself to becoming an evangelist, a preacher of the gospel, to see Jesus return in my own generation. That's when the Holy Spirit was unleashed upon me, and I simply let myself be guided by Him in the great work of saving the lost."

"What a wonderful testimony, Philip!" said Luca. "I also wanted to be a preacher on Earth. Did the Spirit guide you to a chariot in the middle of the road? What happened?"

"I was just about to tell you," Philip said. "The Holy Spirit led me to preach to an Ethiopian man. He had traveled far to reach Israel and learn about Jesus, but no one in Israel had explained it to him, and he was returning home confused and discouraged.

"The Spirit identified those who sincerely longed to know Jesus and sent us to meet them," Philip said joyfully. "The rest of the story is the Spirit unleashing Himself in their lives, transforming them into disciples of Jesus and driving them to fulfill the mission..."

"There you are, my friend Philip!" A deep, calm voice spoke from behind them. The three of them turned around.

"Well, we were just talking about you!" Philip said, running to embrace the man who had just appeared. "I present to you my friend from Ethiopia—yes, the very one who was in that chariot and was baptized along the way. I met him again here in the Holy City!"

"Pleased to meet you, friends of Philip," the Ethiopian said. "Forgive me for having to take Philip away, but I have gathered more than 500 people who came to Jesus in Ethiopia—thanks to God and to my missionary work—and now they are also here in heaven! They all want to thank Philip. So, I must take him with me. Don't worry—we'll have plenty of time to talk and get to know each other better."

"500 redeemed! Wow!" Luca and Orel exclaimed at the same time. "No problem—we'll see you soon, Philip."

Orel lit up his floating map, tapped a few buttons, and the familiar red light began to blink...

"You won't want to miss the next character," Orel said. "Even I am excited to go meet him. Are you ready?"

"Now you've got me excited too! Let's go!"





### I read today's devotional!



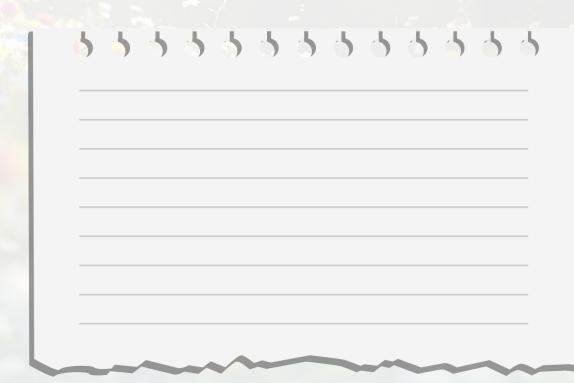


With the help of your parents, choose one of the following activities:

- 1. Memorize Psalm 23 or another psalm, and ask your pastor or teacher to give you the opportunity to recite it at your church or school.
- 2. Prepare a sermon or a short devotional and share it with your family, your friends, or—if possible—at your church or school.



- 1. Pray that the Holy Spirit may be unleashed in your life and drive you always to fulfill the mission.
- 2. Pray that the Holy Spirit may help you win other people for Jesus.



# The UNLEASHED SPIRIT Makes Us Children of God

"Welcome to the Central Plaza of the New Jerusalem," Orel said to Luca.

"Look at the fountains! What a beautiful place this is!" Luca exclaimed as he ran to examine a huge fountain with flower designs in the center of the Plaza.

"There are so many people here. Over there I see some kind of amphitheater, and many of the redeemed are listening very attentively to someone speaking," Luca said, trying to see and hear as much as he could, as quickly as possible.

"We need to go there," Orel said, pointing to the central amphitheater. "There must be more than a million redeemed gathered now. Let's wait a little to speak with the one at the front."

"Orel, what is that over there?" Luca pointed toward a huge building at one end of the Plaza. At its entrance, the image of an open book floated over a pillar.

"I'll show you that place later," Orel said. "It's called the Celestial Record Room, and it is where the life stories of every human being who lived on Earth are kept."

At that moment, applause and hallelujahs resounded throughout the plaza. The speaker had finished his message, was stepping down from the platform, and now the angelic songs of praise were beginning.

"Come on," Orel said, taking Luca by the hand. Both of them, almost running, went after a man dressed in a white robe with a red border at the hem. They found him behind the amphitheater.

"Paul! Paul!" Orel called out toward the man. "Wait for us—we want to speak with you."

The man, Paul, stopped, looked at them intently, and smiled merrily.

"Orel and Luca—is it really you?" Paul said, as if he already knew them.

"Wow!" Luca said, staring at Orel in amazement. "How do you know us?" he asked.

"My good friend Stephen told me you had met with him and that you were seeking people who had experienced the Holy Spirit," Paul said, still smiling. "So, I thought it was only a matter of time before you came looking for me."

"You're incredible, Paul!" Luca said excitedly. "I always admired you. You were such a powerful example to me on Earth."

"Oh, Luca!" Paul said. "Your words move me. But I was only a simple mortal who received the privilege of being a soldier of Jesus."





"Not just a soldier, I'd say," Orel added. "But the greatest commander in the army God ever had on Earth."

"My friends, your words flatter me," Paul laughed. "But to God be the glory—only to the Supreme Commander, Jesus! No one else but Him!"

Orel brought up a verse on the floating glass—Romans 8:14, "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God."

"Paul, please explain to us—how did the Spirit transform people into children of God?"

"What a marvelous question!" Paul said. "It is a very deep theological question. But in simple terms, I would say that all who were baptized received the blessing of the Holy Spirit. At that moment, the Spirit began a silent and transforming work in the human heart.

"Thus, every person who accepted Jesus as their Savior, was baptized, and lived following in His steps, became part of the family of God. That's why we are all here! In the New Jerusalem, we are all children adopted by Jesus.

"The unleashed Spirit makes us children of God," Paul concluded.

"It was a little hard to understand, but I think I got it in the end," Luca said, scratching his head. "I was adopted into the family of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, is that right?"

"Exactly!" Paul said. "Even I was adopted. Can you imagine what my life would have been if Jesus had not found me on the road to Damascus? I shudder just thinking about it."

"Let's give thanks to God for having considered us worthy of His grace," Orel said. "Dear Paul, I think you must go back to the amphitheater now—there are some of the redeemed signaling for you to return to them."

"Oh yes! Excuse me, my friends... duty calls!" Paul winked at Luca and walked away.

"Paul is a man of great intellectual ability," Orel said. "On Earth, God used him to preach to the mighty and powerful. Here in heaven, his abilities are increased, and he is able to converse about fascinating things even with the angels. Everyone wants to hear him!"

"I want to talk with Paul again," Luca said. "I have so many questions for him... Where are we going now, Orel?"

"To a place I think you know very well, little Luca," Orel said with a calm, gentle voice. "It will truly be an honor to travel with you again."

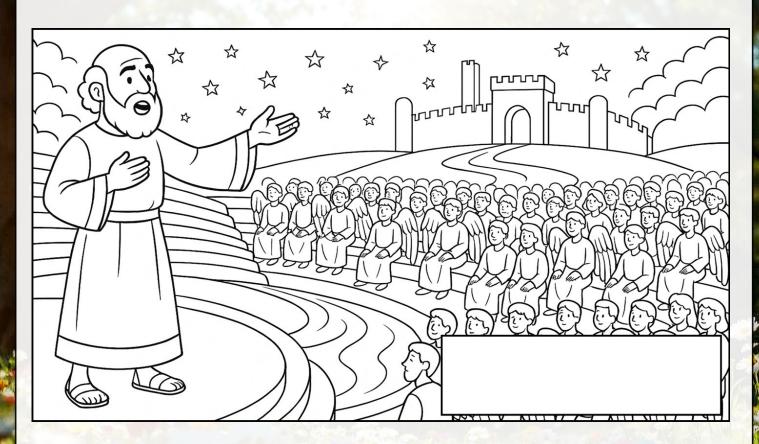








Color the picture of Paul speaking in the New Jerusalem. In the box, write: "In Heaven I will meet my favorite Bible characters." Cut out the drawing and place it somewhere visible in your home or room.





- 1. Pray that the Holy Spirit may be unleashed in your life and make you part of the family of God.
- 2. Pray that the Holy Spirit may help you remain faithful in the family of Jesus.



"Luca!... I've been calling you for ten minutes... Don't make me come upstairs..."

Luca slowly opened his eyes. "Where am I?" he asked in a soft voice.

"Luca! You're going to be late for school," Mom said from the door. "Dad is already in the car waiting to take you... Get dressed quickly, son!"

"Mom! I'm home," Luca said as he hugged his mom tightly.

"Where else would you be, my son?" Luca's mom said, kissing him on the head. "But you'd better hurry, please. Today is the first day of school, and you don't want to miss it."

"Mom! I was in heaven! I visited other worlds, I saw incredible things and spoke with Bible characters," Luca said excitedly.

"I think you had a very special dream," Mom replied. "But you'll have time to tell me later. For now, let's pray and thank God for watching over you during the night."

They both knelt at the side of the bed and prayed. Luca got ready for school. His mom had his breakfast lunchbox prepared, and his dad was waiting in the car to take him to school before heading to work.

Sitting in the car, Luca asked, "Dad, who would you like to meet in heaven?"

"Oh, many people," Dad answered while driving. "Moses, David, and Paul..."

"I already met them!" Luca said quickly. "Or at least I dreamed about talking with them. The New Jerusalem is beautiful. You can't imagine all the things I saw there..."

"One day we'll go together—you, your mom, and I," Dad replied. "But for the three of us to go, we must be faithful to God and do our part. Are you carrying your Bible?" Dad asked. "Open it to Acts 1:8 and read it, please, my son."

Luca read, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

"To go to heaven, we must receive the Holy Spirit and fulfill the mission," Dad explained. "The Spirit must be unleashed in our lives so that we can be used as instruments of salvation in the hands of Jesus. That way, many more people can know that He is coming soon in the clouds of heaven..."

"That's right, Dad," Luca said. "You're right. Can I start studying the Bible with my classmates who aren't Christians?"



"Of course, son!" Dad said. "Getting actively involved in the mission will help you grow strong spiritually, and you'll be fulfilling Jesus' command. That's why the Spirit will help you accomplish God's plan for your life."

"Dad, I want to be a preacher like Paul," Luca said with excitement. "I know I still have a long way to go, but I want to start right now!"

"My son, you don't know how much joy it gives me to hear you say that" Dad said, wiping away a tear. "It's the most beautiful thing I've heard so far."

"Dad, I'll also take care of my body and stop eating meat," Luca said decisively. "John the Baptist taught me that I must be healthy if I want God to use me as an instrument in His hands."

"Oh, Luca..." Dad replied. "That might be a little difficult. But your mom and I will see what we can do. Let's take it step by step, okay?"

They arrived at school. Luca kissed his dad goodbye and ran off to his classroom. He sat in one of the first desks at the front. "I'll work hard to learn all I can," he thought with determination, "so I can be useful to God and help in the evangelization of the world. I want the Lord Jesus to return in my generation. I want to go to heaven and live what I dreamed."

The Spirit had been unleashed in Luca's life and was doing His transforming work in the heart of that little eight-year-old boy.

"Hi, my name is Luca," he said to a girl who sat down next to him on his right.

"Hi Luca, my name is Amanda," the girl replied shyly.

"Amanda, would you like to study the Bible with me and some of my friends?"

"Uh... yes... That would be nice," Amanda answered.

"Great!" Luca said happily. "I'll give you the Bible class schedule soon." Luca had just found his first Bible student!

Though Luca didn't know it, in one of the empty desks at the back sat Orel, smiling.

"You will be great in the Lord, dear Luca," Orel thought. "Just a little longer, and we will meet again to live incredible things in heaven with Jesus."

### THE END





### I read today's devotional!





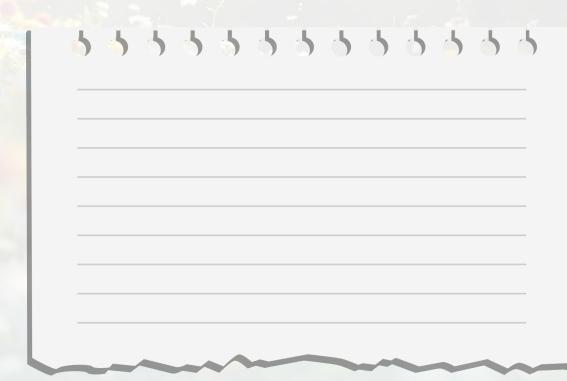


- 1. Make a list of five friends who don't know Jesus.
- 2. Pray for them and ask if they would like to study the Bible with you.
- 3. With the help of your parents, organize your Bible class and give Bible studies to your friends.

If they are old enough, **invite them to accept Jesus** as their personal Savior through baptism.



- 1. Pray that the Holy Spirit may be unleashed in your life and make you a powerful instrument in God's work.
- 2. Pray that the Holy Spirit may bring you family members and friends to study the Bible with you so you can help them know Jesus.



# **IMPORTANT NOTES**



