

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Part I

June 8th was the celebration of Pentecost. Pentecost is one of the great feast days of the church, the day when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. This follows the ascension of Jesus Christ into Heaven, which we celebrated on May 29th. The book of Acts tells us some of what it is like to have the Holy Spirit dwelling with and living in us. As we read through the Book of Acts, we see that the protagonists are the apostles. Whereas in the Gospels, Jesus performed the miracles, now it is the Apostles. Jesus is no longer a direct actor. Now Peter does the healing, whereas in the Gospels, Jesus did the healing.

Do you see the difference? It is an important but subtle change. Jesus has left the earth to be with His Father in heaven. So how is it that a man, Peter, for example, whom no one has suggested is God, how is it that Peter is able to do these miracles, these Acts? How is this possible?

The answer is through the Holy Spirit. We hear how the apostles were able to speak in all the tongues so that they might proclaim the good news of Jesus everywhere. If we keep reading the Book of Acts, we will hear how Peter healed the sick and raised the dead. The apostles were able to do this. Jesus did not do this, not directly, and that is the difference.

We know that God has revealed himself in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We also know that the Son, Jesus, died for our sins, rose again victorious from the dead, and won for us everlasting life. He paid the price that we could never pay, and having paid that price, He ascended into heaven. Jesus has done his job. He has accomplished that for which he came. His ministry is complete. So, where does that leave us?

Let us look at this another way. As Christians, we devote a significant amount of time and talent to discussing a personal relationship with Jesus. And perhaps that is because, of the three persons, Jesus is the person who makes the most sense to us on a lot of levels. He was here, robed in the same flesh in which we are robed. He ate, slept, and drank just like us. He was tangible and spoke directly to us. For whatever reason, I would say that Jesus is the ‘go-to’ person of the three persons, the most popular, if you will. However, we have heard time and again in the scriptures that He has left. He predicted it, and the apostles saw it happen. Jesus ascended into heaven. He is not here.

So again, where does that leave us? Is God gone? Are we alone, stumbling blindly around, abandoned? No. We are not.

The Holy Spirit is here, amongst us now. Jesus told us that this would happen.

Jesus said “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.”

And at Pentecost, we celebrate that arrival, that coming, this new age.

We are not alone. God is here, the Holy Spirit is here, dwelling with us.

This is very important. What the church is celebrating on Pentecost was more than the Apostles speaking in tongues. What the church is celebrating on Pentecost is more than the Apostles being granted power to Act. It is much more than that.

It has been suggested that Pentecost is the birthday of the church, the beginning of the church as the Apostles were inspired and empowered on this day to Act and go forth. And so they were. But it is much more than that. Pentecost is the beginning of a new relationship with God, and new way of relating to him. Pentecost is a beginning not just for the church, but for all mankind.

What we celebrate on Pentecost is God with us. The God who loves us is here with us now, available to us today. And that is very good news.

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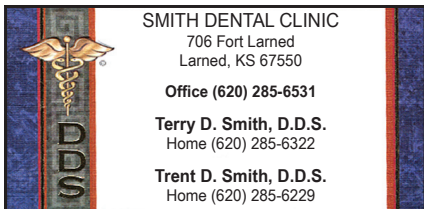
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Teaching Teens to Dream Bigger: “Let’s Buy a House” Brings Real-World Financial Literacy into Classrooms

By Brenda Bradley,
Education and Real
Estate Contributor

In a time when many young people are graduating high school without knowing how to balance a checkbook or build good credit, one unique program is closing that gap—by teaching students how to buy a house.

“Let’s Buy a House” is a hands-on, Project by Learning financial literacy program designed for middle and high school students. Created by real estate broker and educator Brenda Bradley, this dynamic initiative transforms the complex world of budgeting, credit, and homeownership into an engaging, real-world learning experience.

“We’re not just teaching math and vocabulary,” says Bradley. “We’re teaching students how to dream responsibly—and how to make those dreams come true.”

Through interactive role play, students learn the importance of budgeting, understanding credit scores, debt-to-income ratios, saving, and long-term planning. They learn how to price a car, manage monthly expenses, and ultimately qualify for and purchase a home—all within a simulated classroom experience that mirrors real life. The program



emphasizes decision-making, goal setting, and problem-solving, building both financial and personal confidence.

The success of “Let’s Buy a House” has been undeniable. Schools across the region are requesting the program, teachers are thrilled with the level of engagement, and students are walking away inspired and informed.

“This was the first time I actually saw myself buying a home,” said one 11th grader. “No one ever broke it down for us like this.”

With demand growing faster than resources can keep up, the pro-

gram is now seeking funding support from donors, foundations, and community stakeholders who believe in preparing youth for real-world success.

“Every dollar we receive goes directly into expanding the program, training teachers, supplying student kits, and reaching underserved communities,” Bradley says. “We believe financial literacy should be a right, not a privilege.”

“Let’s Buy a House” is more than a class—it’s a movement to equip the next generation with the tools they need to own their future.

How You Can Help

If you are a donor, corporate sponsor, or foundation leader who wants to invest in youth empowerment through education, your support can help bring “Let’s Buy a House” to more classrooms. Help us build financial freedom from the ground up.

Let’s Buy A House under the 501(c)(3) program Youth Educational Empowerment, Marquis Murphy Executive Director. 316-351-5757 https://myyeep.org All donations are tax deductible

Hoisington school board debating future of Central Plains co-op for softball

By COLE REIF
Great Bend Post

For the last few years, Hoisington USD 431 has partnered with Central Plains High School to allow students from the high school in Claflin to participate on Hoisington’s baseball and softball teams.

USD 431 Board of Education member Sara Tarlton said the plan started when the Hoisington baseball team needed numbers to field a team.

“It came up that if baseball is being offered to Central Plains then softball has to as well,” said Tarlton. “I’ve always been against it because softball has never needed numbers. Baseball has. We always had to go with both or none.”

Finding out the cooperatives (co-ops) are separate agreements, the USD 431 school is discussing if they want to continue the agreement with Central Plains. Having to combine enrollment numbers from both schools, Hoisington jumped up a classification to 4A this year for both baseball and softball.

“You go to school in Hoisington,” said Tarlton. “We have the numbers for softball. Why are these students going to be taking positions from Hoisington students?”

A decision on co-ops has to be submitted to the Kansas State High School Activities Association by Jan. 1. The Hoisington school board will hear from coaches at a future meeting before making their decision on the co-op.



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