

Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

This week, we begin our church wide “Life in the Spirit” series that focuses on the work and person of the Holy Spirit. The truth is, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be the real-time presence of God with us in the same way that Jesus was with His disciples as He walked and talked with them - but sometimes that idea can seem a little hard to grasp, especially since we typically don’t talk as much about the Holy Spirit as we do God the Father and Jesus. So to get the group started, go around and let everyone share what comes to their mind when they think of the Holy Spirit - do they think of a “ghost”? A force-like presence? A person? Something else?

BIG THOUGHT

God gives the Holy Spirit to His followers as His presence to guide us, encourage us, convict us, and lead us as we walk with Him during our time here on earth.

1. Chapters 13-17 of the Gospel of John contains Jesus' final instructions to his disciples. Read John 16:1-6. What was the mood of the disciples as Jesus was speaking to them? What do you think you would have been feeling if you had been hanging out with Jesus for three years and then heard Him say that he was leaving?
2. Now read v. 7-11. Would you have believed Jesus when He said it would be “for your good” that He was going away? Why or why not? Does it seem odd to you that Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as “the Counselor”? How would you put into your own words what it means to be convicted by the Holy Spirit regarding the three issues that Jesus mentions in these verses (v. 8-9)? And how is Jesus’ death and resurrection a judgment on the “ruler of this world” (Satan)?

3. Read v. 12-13. How does this explanation of what the Holy Spirit will do connect to Jesus referring to the Holy Spirit as “the Counselor”? Do you think Jesus is saying that the Holy Spirit will let us know what things will happen (v. 13)? Why or why not?
4. Look at v. 14-15. How does the Holy Spirit bring glory to Jesus? And what does Jesus explain about the relationship between Himself, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit in v. 15? Why do you think Jesus wants to make sure we understand the connection between all three persons of the Trinity?
5. In Acts 2, we see the first arrival of the Holy Spirit after Jesus leaves the earth, and from then on the Holy Spirit continues to spread to all believers as God guides the church. Now read Acts 16:6-10. How did the Holy Spirit guide Paul and Silas as they made decisions? In what ways do you believe the Holy Spirit can guide us today? Have you ever had an insight or understanding that you believe came from the Holy Spirit? Share with the group if you can...

Take it Further

Talk with God and thank Him for sending the Holy Spirit to be with us as we follow Him. Then ask the Holy Spirit in prayer to guide, encourage, convict, and lead you right now.

Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: Acts 1:8

Day 2: Mark 13:11

Day 3: Acts 13:2

Day 4: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Day 5: Romans 5:5

Day 6: John 14:16

Memory Verses: John 16:13-14



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