

Study Guide for the Central Church of Christ

June 16, 2019

To Adult Teachers:

June 16, we will study John 14:16-20, 26-27; 15:26-27; and 16:7-15. Discussion questions are:

1. What do you remember being taught about the Holy Spirit when you were growing up? In what ways are you still curious or confused about the Holy Spirit?
2. When Jesus, at the Last Supper, told his disciples he was leaving them, what do you suppose they thought he was talking about? What emotional reactions do you think they had?
3. How do you think the disciples reacted to Jesus' statement that his leaving was ultimately for their good (John 16:7)?
 - a. Do you think they had trouble believing that?
 - b. In what way was it for their good for Jesus to leave?
 - c. Do you sometimes feel your spiritual walk would have been easier if you had been alive when Jesus physically walked the earth? If so, what insight does this passage give regarding that thought?
4. Jesus refers to the sending of the *paraclete* four times in his discourse the night before his crucifixion. As you read through the sections of that discourse that contain those references, what basic truths can you discern regarding the Holy Spirit?
 - a. John 14:16-20
 - b. John 14:26-27
 - c. John 15:26-27
 - d. John 16:7-15
5. Of the functions of the Holy Spirit outlined in these passages, which one(s) would you like to experience more fully?

Sermon: *Holy Spirit 101*

For the next few weeks, I'll be delivering messages about the Holy Spirit.

Memory verse: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."
2 Timothy 1:7

Why seek the Holy Spirit? Why pray for him to come into your life? I believe in God and I've put my trust in Jesus. Holy Spirit is a little too foggy, spooky, and mystical for me.

Because Jesus says he sent us the Holy Spirit and that we desperately need him.

The night before the crucifixion, Jesus' final instructions to his disciples, preparing them for his departure. John 13-16. Ten times, he says, "I am leaving."

Troubled hearts. They had been with Jesus every day for three years. He had been their teacher, their guide, the one who was constantly there to challenge them, reassure them, encourage them, pray for them. What were they to do?

Jesus' answer: I will not leave you alone. Ten times, "I will come to you."

Read John 14:16-20, 26-27; 15:26-27; 16:7-15

What Jesus doesn't offer: the Bible, self-esteem, each other, church rituals. He promises them his very own presence through the Holy Spirit.

1. Jesus has a name for the Holy Spirit. "Counselor." Other translations, "Comforter," "Helper," "Intercessor," "Advocate," "Companion." Greek word, "paraclete," used seldom in the NT, only a few times outside NT. Some who speaks in defense of another in a court of law. We think, "lawyer." But professional, paid lawyers didn't exist in Jesus' day. Well-spoken family member or friend. But broader than just legal settings. "One who offers assistance in a situation where help is needed."
2. "Another" paraclete, taking the place of Jesus himself. (14:16). Jesus was their paraclete (and is called such in 1 John 2:1). The role of the Holy Spirit is to take the place of the physical presence of Jesus. In fact, Jesus says it's good that he goes away (16:7), so paraclete can come. Our thoughts about being physically present with Jesus. Jesus would disagree. We must be tremendously underutilizing the power of the Spirit.
3. The Holy Spirit is a personal being. What do I mean by that? He has a distinct existence as a being, just as God does and Jesus does. He has personality and character traits. He is not "the force." He is a "he," not an "it." Try going up to a mother with a young baby and saying, "Awww, how cute. How old is it?" Pointed answer: "*She* is seven months old!" My baby is not a thing; she is her own distinct person. God: "My Holy Spirit is not a thing; he is his own distinct being."
4. The Holy Spirit is God in the same sense that Jesus is God. A member of the Holy Trinity. We have a hard time understanding that. Egg, clover, family, H₂O. None of them describe the Trinity very well. Just take what the Bible says, recognizing that there is a mystery beyond our understanding. John 14:8-10 "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." Cf. 16:15 "All that belongs to the Father is mine. The Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you." Also, 14:17, "you know the Spirit, for he lives with you and will be in you." 14:16 "the Father will give you another Counselor." v. 18, "I will come to you."
5. The Holy Spirit brings us into a family relationship with God and Jesus. 14:18, "I will not leave you as orphans." An orphan is one who does not have a Mom or Dad present to guide them as they grow. Left on their own to figure out life without wise counsel, comfort, challenge, encouragement. Left with some memories and stories, but no ongoing presence, no expectation of future. His leaving them was like them being orphaned. But not permanent. The coming of the Spirit was the equivalent of Jesus being there in person. Read Romans 8:15-16.
6. What does the Holy Spirit do?
 - a. He teaches. Brings to remembrance the words of Jesus, but also emotional teaching: boldness and courage; love, joy and hope; strength to endure; enthusiasm for God's work.
 - b. He guides. Good, better, best.
 - c. He convicts. Us and the world.
 - d. He testifies to us and through us.
 - e. He gives peace. 14:27.

Bottom line: we don't have to live like orphans! Memories, stories of Jesus from way back when, or a present experience of relationship with him. Lives of orphans, churches of orphans. Doesn't have to be this way. I'm tired of living like, feeling like an orphan! Ask for the Holy Spirit!