



4. *Why does Jesus say that the disciples will know the Holy Spirit?*

5. *How do you think having the Holy Spirit will help the disciples not feel like orphans?*

### **GOING DEEPER:**

It is important that we understand that the Holy Spirit is a person and is God. He is not just a force or power, but is a person that we can have relationship with. He now lives inside of you. Ephesians 1:13 says, "Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit." This seal means that you now belong to God and are part of His family. It also means that the Holy Spirit will be with you forever and will help you in your journey to make sure you go to heaven to be with God forever. The Holy Spirit also wants to talk to you as well as give you power to live out your new life in Christ. It may take a little while to learn to hear His voice, but once you do you will find out that He is talking to you all the time. Just like Jesus did with his disciples the Holy Spirit wants to lead you and teach you about the kingdom of God. Sometimes the things He shares with you may stretch your faith, but if you obey you will experience spiritual growth and see God work through you. Here are some things to keep in mind as you learn to hear the Holy Spirit speak to you.

1. Since the Holy Spirit lives in you His voice will come from your "inner being" not just your mind or emotions. It is generally soft and not forceful.
2. His words will always agree with Scripture and the character of God.
3. His words are often a thought that we would not have come up with on our own.
4. His words will bring encouragement, faith, wisdom, peace, love, and a good kind of conviction as opposed to just feeling guilty, condemned, or judged.
5. His words will always point us toward Jesus and His kingdom.

Building a relationship with the Holy Spirit and learning to hear His voice takes time. Don't be discouraged if you find it difficult at first. There are two key things we can do that will help us grow in hearing the Holy Spirit speak to us.

**First, set aside time to practice listening.** Like building any relationship, time is important. Sometimes our lives are so busy we can miss what God is saying. When we look at the gospels, we see Jesus taking time out often to be alone with God. In doing this He was able to discern what the Father's will was and therefore live with confidence. You too can set aside time to be with God and practice listening to God. The more you spend time with God the more natural it will be to hear His voice throughout the day. There will be a practice exercise at the end of this lesson to get you started.



