

This weekly devotional is offered as a resource and tool to be used during your personal time and/or in a small group environment.

the other

scripture memory: John 14:15-16

step one

What do you imagine when you think about the Holy Spirit?

DISCUSS: What has my attitude and response been to the Holy Spirit? What are my fears, doubts, or confusion about the Holy Spirit? Where do they come from? Is there a past experience, teaching, or concern which affects my present relationship with and understanding of the Holy Spirit?

We may think we don't need the Holy Spirit that much, given our talents, experience, and education. Most of us are fairly capable of living rather successfully (according to the world's standards) without much thought of the Holy Spirit. Does His presence in our lives make a difference? Is it really a big deal?

Imagine Jesus standing beside you right now, functioning as your personal counselor. Think about the peace and confidence you have knowing you're receiving perfect truth and flawless direction from Him. Not many people would turn down that opportunity!

LOOK at what Jesus says to his followers about the Holy Spirit.

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. John 16:7

In other words, Jesus tells his disciples (and us who follow him today) that it's better for Him to leave and have the Holy Spirit sent to us.

DISCUSS: Do we believe it's better to have the Holy Spirit? Does your life reflect that belief? What degree of difference does the Holy Spirit make in your life?

pray: Jesus, You've said it's to our advantage that You leave and send the Holy Spirit to live in us. Help us to believe You and trust Your plan. Show us how to live each day in light of this truth. Teach us to embrace the person of the Holy Spirit and the role You've given Him in our lives. Holy Spirit, allow us to truly discover and experience Your work in our lives. Thank you for coming to us. Amen.

step two

READ Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, John 14:17.

The Holy Spirit makes His home within us.

We're the dwelling place of the Spirit of God.

DISCUSS: What do you believe about the Holy Spirit? What does it mean to have the Holy Spirit in your life?

READ John 14:15-17, 14:25-26, 16:13-14.

What do these verses tell us about the Holy Spirit?

step three

READ James 4:2b-4 and Romans 7:21-23.

"What does the Spirit do? His works are ineffable in majesty, and innumerable in quantity... He existed; He pre-existed; He co-existed with the Father and the Son before the ages. Even if you can imagine anything beyond the ages, you will discover that the Spirit is even further beyond." St. Basil the Great

As we seek to better understand the Spirit, we must believe and know that He is more than we're able to grasp. Our goal need not be to fully understand, but rather to pursue a relationship with Him — to learn how to rely upon and submit to His leadership and experience His presence and power in our lives.

READ the descriptive sentences and scriptures about the Holy Spirit below.

The Holy Spirit is a Person. He isn't an ambiguous power or thing nor a power to be harnessed in order to accomplish things. The Spirit "dwells with you and will be in you." John 14:17. This calls us into a relationship with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is God. The words Spirit and God are used interchangeably in the New Testament.

The Holy Spirit is eternal and holy. (Genesis 1:1-2, John 14:16, Hebrews 9:14)

The Holy Spirit has His own mind and He prays for us. (Romans 8:26-28)

The Holy Spirit can be grieved. (Isaiah 63:10, Ephesians 4:30) The Spirit is grieved when a relationship is breached — whether it's relationship with God or with other people.

The Holy Spirit guides us, teaches us, and proclaims Jesus.

(Mark 13:11, John 15:26, 16:13-14) The Holy Spirit was given to direct us.

Desiring the Holy Spirit means we allow the Holy Spirit to be our guide.

The Holy Spirit gives power. (Acts 1:8, Ephesians 3:16-19)

The Holy Spirit convicts of sin. (John 16:7-11, 1 Thessalonians 1:5)

The Holy Spirit brings life, freedom, and hope.

(Romans 8:10-11, 2 Corinthians 3:17, Romans 15:13)

The Holy Spirit transforms us. (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)

The Holy Spirit produces fruit in our life. (Galatians 5:22-23)

DISCUSS: What's surprising about what you read? Do any of these verses challenge you to think of the Holy Spirit in a way you haven't before? If so, how?

Take a few minutes to pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to dwell in you and guide you into truth — that He would release any doubts/fears which may hinder your full surrender to His leadership. As you seek to know and experience His presence in your life, ask Him to guide you into truth.

step four

Over the next few days, READ John 14-16 and mark the verses which refer to the Holy Spirit — who He is, what He does, how He works, etc.

As you begin your group time together next week, consider sharing something about the Holy Spirit from these chapters in John.