

I Believe in the Holy Spirit

I Believe: Understanding the Essence of Christianity

Discussion Questions

- **Introduction**

- Have you ever felt like the Holy Spirit was a familiar stranger to you?
- Why do you think that is?

- **Read the first part of the Apostles' Creed:**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit

- What do we often mean when we say we “believe” in something?
- **Read John 14:16-17**
 - How does the biblical definition of “knowing” (experiential knowledge) differ from the ways we often use the word “know” or “believe”?
 - What else do you notice about this passage?
 - Why is it important that the primary definition of “*Parakletos*” or “Helper” is “one called alongside to help”? What does that teach us about the Holy Spirit?
- **Comfort:**
 - How have you experienced the comfort of the Holy Spirit? Think of a time he has comforted you in a difficult season.
 - How are you currently hoping to experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit?
- **Conviction:**
 - How have you experienced the Holy Spirit lead you back into the truth, convict you of sin, or point you back to Jesus?
 - Where do you currently need to experience his conviction?
- **Commission:**
 - How have you seen the Holy Spirit empower someone else for mission?
 - In what ways do you need the Holy Spirit to empower you to live for the sake of the Gospel?
- **It is to your advantage that I go away:**
 - Read John 16:7
 - Why is it so shocking that Jesus would say it was to the advantage of the Disciples that he went away?
 - How do you experience the presence of Jesus differently because of the Holy Spirit?
- **Application & Reflection:**
 - How does the presence and power of the Holy Spirit call you to live differently in your daily life?
 - How might you incorporate the prayer – “Come, Holy Spirit” into your daily prayer rhythm?