

GROWTH
GROUP

THE HOLY SPIRIT

HE WHO LEADS US
TO CHRIST

OUR PRAYERS FOR THIS SERIES



Study 1 John 14:15-31	That we would know God's great love for us and so love Jesus all the more. May it result in obedience to His word.
Study 2 John 15:26-27	That we would be active and bold in our witness to the Lord Jesus knowing the Holy Spirit's help.
Study 3 John 16:4b-11	That we would be all the more aware of and prayerful for the Spirit's active work in the world convicting unbelievers of their sin.
Study 4 John 16:12-15	That we would have complete confidence in the apostles' witness to Jesus and therefore trust the New Testament.

HOLY THE SPIRIT

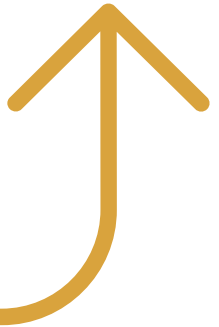
HE WHO LEADS US TO CHRIST



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HOLY SPIRIT



JOHN 14-16

Introduction

The Bible's most comprehensive teaching on the Holy Spirit is found in John 13-16, known as "the upper room discourse". It takes place on the last night before Jesus' death. In this Growth Group study series we will look at key passages in that unit.

Earlier in the Gospel, John the Baptist and Jesus both speak briefly about the Holy Spirit. See John 1:32-33, 3:5-8, 34, 4:24, 7:39

Jesus will be our teacher in John 13-16 as we observe him in the upper room celebrating the Passover with his disciples and teaching them in the hours prior to his arrest.

The events that lead up to this pivotal evening include:

- Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem - John 12:12-19
- A group of Greeks come to the feast and ask to see Jesus. His response is highly significant:

"The hour has come for the son of Man to be glorified." John 12:23

"Now is my soul troubled. And what should I say? 'Father save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour."

John 12:28

The upper room discourse starts with Jesus' act of love in washing his disciples' feet,

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. John 13:1

Immediately after this the betrayer, Judas, leaves,

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him." John 13:31

Jesus goes on to reassure the remaining 11. Their hearts are troubled and it is in this context that he calls on them to believe in him and begins to teach them in detail about the coming of the Holy Spirit.

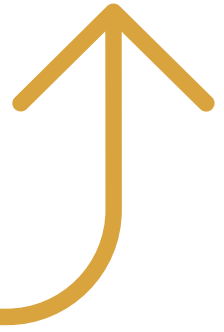
Throughout

Jesus promises his disciples 5 times that, after his departure, he will send the long-awaited Holy Spirit. But he does more than simply make promises. He also explains:

-  what the Spirit is coming to do
-  the relationship between the Spirit's work and Jesus' ministry
-  the impact the Spirit will have on them
-  what to expect of the Spirit in their lives, in history, and in our lives.

STUDY 1

ANOTHER HELPER JOHN 14:15-31



Engage

Share a time when you have eavesdropped on an important conversation...

Observe

Read John 14:15-31

Here Jesus alternates between speaking directly to the 11 and to believers in every age ("whoever", "anyone who").

In the following below, map the different promises Jesus makes:

Verse	Exclusively to the 11	To us

Understand

Disciples or apostles?

All apostles are disciples but not all disciples are apostles. In these chapters we must decide in the particular context of the upper room discourse, whether Jesus' words are to his friends as disciples (like us) or as apostles who are being prepared by Jesus to be sent into the world for their unique work in human history.

Dig deeper

Promise #1

From verses 15-16, why would it be wrong to think that the Spirit comes to us as a result of our own effort?

What does Jesus mean by calling the Spirit **“another”** Helper?

What comfort would it have been to the 11 at this particular moment, that the Helper would dwell with them forever?

Why can't the world receive the Spirit? (see verse 17)
From verse 21, what are the marks of those who love Jesus? What results from this?

In verse 23 who else is involved in the sending of the Spirit?

""**paraclete**" In the ESV this word is translated "Helper". In other english versions of the Bible it is translated, "comforter", "counsellor" or "advocate". While each of these english words capture different aspects of the Holy Spirit's work as described by Jesus in this section of John's Gospel, there is no single english translation equivalent.

Jesus' first promise (in John 14:16-17) was that the Holy Spirit would be with the disciples forever. His second promise tells us what the Holy Spirit will do when He comes (see 14:26).

Promise #2

How does Jesus' promise in verses 25-26 give us confidence we can truly know Jesus teaching from the Scriptures?

The Gospel accounts often show the apostles not yet understanding who Jesus is. How does Jesus' promise here reassure you of the authenticity and accuracy of the 4 Gospels' witness to Christ? See also John 2:22, 12:16, 20:9 & Luke 24:45

Live it out

When Jesus calls us to love him he is talking about more than our feelings.

Is there something in your life you need to change in the light of Jesus' teaching?

Similarly, we don't base our knowledge of the Holy Spirit's work in us as believers on the basis of our feelings..... He is the Spirit of truth.

Christian spirituality = obedience to Jesus's commands. To love Jesus is to love and keep his word.

Respond in prayer

- Praise God for Jesus' deep love for his disciples.
- Thank God for the promise of the Holy Spirit being with us forever.
- Ask God to continue to teach us as we read the Scriptures.
- Thank God for the peace that he promised to give.

STUDY 2

THE HELPER'S WITNESS TO A HOSTILE WORLD. JOHN 15:26-27



Engage

How great a risk does God take in sending flawed humans to be His chosen witnesses! Have you ever had to speak up and tell the truth about what really happened?

Observe

²⁶ *"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning."* John 15:26-27

This is Jesus' third promise about the Spirit.

In John 15:1-17 ("I am the vine; you are the branches...."), he had focused on the disciples' relationship with him.

In verses 18-25 he turns to the disciples' relationship to the world:

- The world will hate the disciples as it hated him.
- The truth will be contested.
- But despite serious opposition, the Spirit will testify to the truth about Jesus. He will expose falsehood, lies and the world's hate.

Dig deeper

This is the second time that Jesus identifies the Helper as the Spirit of truth (verse 26, see also 14:17). Given the context, why is this significant?

The fact that Jesus has the authority to send the Holy Spirit from the Father tells us something important about Jesus' status. What is it?

Jesus says that he will employ two agents to accomplish his purposes in the world.

- Who are they and will they do?
 - How are the two witnesses connected?
- (See also Mark 13:9-11 and Acts 1:8)

Why is it important that the 11 have been with Jesus from the beginning?

In Acts 1:21-26, what qualifies Matthias to replace Judas?

Live it out

Jesus tells the 11 that the world will oppose them.

Why would it be wrong for them to escape from the world after Jesus leaves? Why would this be wrong for us in our day?

Witnessing to Jesus is hard, even if we don't face the persecution that Christians experience in many other countries. Why should we all persist in witnessing to Jesus? How does promise #3 encourage you to do so?

Share one area of your life where you'd like to be bolder about living for Jesus this week

The Holy Spirit points to Jesus. He does this through the witness of the disciples.

Respond in prayer

- Praise God for the Holy Spirit's witness to the Lord Jesus.
- Ask for God's help as we seek to witness to a needy world.

STUDY 3

THE HELPER ADVANTAGE JOHN 16:4B-11



Engage

A Christian brother or sister tells you that they are waiting on the Holy Spirit to convince Canberra of the truth about Jesus so that everyone in our city believes the gospel. How might such a view prevent Christians from playing their part in making this happen?

Observe

Read John 16:4b-11

Why will it be advantageous for the 11 for Jesus to go away?

What connection is there between the Spirit coming to the 11 and Him convicting the world?

What 3 things will the Spirit convict the world of?

There is some difficulty in translating the word "convict" here. It has the sense of "shaming" the world and convincing it of its own guilt, thus calling it to repentance.

The Spirit's role is that of a prosecutor.

Understand

Work through verses 9–11. Why does the Spirit convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment?

This is the only place in the Bible where the Spirit is described of being at work in the world. All other references concern his work in the life of believers.

Dig deeper

When Jesus has gone, the Spirit will speak to 2 different groups of people: 16:4b-11 & 16:12-15.

What connection do you see between what the Spirit says to one group and what He says to the other?

Live it out

How should what Jesus teaches here about Jesus ministry to the world and to the apostles impact how we go about bearing witness to Jesus in our day?

Who might you tell about this?

How do these verses change your view of the Spirit?

Given the role of the Spirit, what is our role in convicting the world of sin?

Respond in prayer

- Praise God for the Holy Spirit's witness to a hostile world.
- Pray for your friends, family and acquaintances to know Jesus.

STUDY 4

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH JOHN 16:12-15



Engage

Imagine that you are one of the 11 to whom Jesus said, "I still have many things to say to you but you cannot bear them now". What might you be feeling at that moment?

Observe

Read John 16:12-15

The advantage of Jesus' going, mentioned previously in John 16:7, is picked up again by Jesus in the section containing his **final promise** concerning the Holy Spirit.

What else will the disciples gain by Jesus' departure?

List all that Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will do in this section. .

Understand

For the 11 to be guided into all the truth and know the things that are to come. In what way do both of these align with the Spirit glorifying Jesus?

When do we see this played out in their lives later on?

Dig deeper

How does Jesus' teaching here about the Spirit's work in the apostles give us grounds for confidence in the teaching of the NT today. (See also 2 Peter 1:19-21)

Why is it important for us to recognize that the Spirit will not speak on his own authority?

What might result if we ignore this?

A second reason for us to have every confidence in the NT Scriptures is outlined in verses 13-15. What is this? When can we be certain of hearing the Holy Spirit's voice?

The New Testament often calls the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of God. On a number of occasions He is called the Spirit of Jesus (see Acts 16:7, Romans 8:9, Philippians 1:19, 1 Peter 1:11)

Live it out

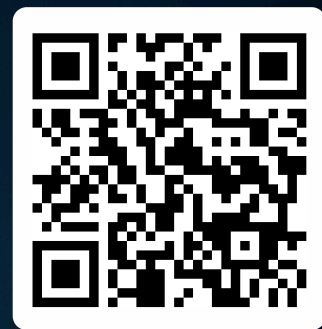
What will be the sign of the Spirit's work?

Where should we be looking to know of the Spirit's work in the world? In us? (see also 1 Corinthians 12:1-3, 1 John 4:1-6)

Respond in prayer

- Thank our heavenly Father that He glorifies Jesus.
- Pray that Jesus is glorified in all that we do and say.
- Praise God for the New Testament witness to Christ.

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HOLY THE SPIRIT



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