

Staying on mission is difficult because drifting off mission is easy.

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:19-22 ESV

We cannot do the work of God without the Spirit of God.
How did the Father send the Son?
How does Jesus send us?

- **With His pleasure**

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Luke 3:21-22 ESV

- **With His purpose**

And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³ but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." Luke 4:42-43 ESV

- **With His people**

And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him. Luke 5:11 ESV

- **With His Presence**

And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him." John 8:29 ESV

Let's Talk About It

God's mission is His work of restoring people to right relationship with Himself and one another so His glory is reflected in the world. This mission flows from the Trinity: the Father sends the Son, the Son sends the Spirit and together they send the church to participate in God's work. Because drifting off mission is easy, we cannot accomplish God's work without the Spirit of God. In John 20, Jesus sends His disciples as the Father sent Him and gives them the Holy Spirit, reminding us that sent people need divine power. We are sent with the same four gifts Jesus had—God's pleasure, God's purpose, God's people, and God's presence—so we can live on mission and finish strong by relying on the Spirit, not ourselves.

John 20:19-22; Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 3:21-22; 4:42-43; 5:11; John 8:29

Discussion questions:

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read John 20:19-22. Why is it so easy for us to drift off mission? How does Jesus giving us the Holy Spirit change the way you understand being sent on God's mission?
- Read Luke 3:21-22. How does knowing you are loved and accepted before you do anything for God change the way you approach mission?
- How is living "sent" different from simply attending church or growing spiritually for yourself? What would this look like for you this year?
- How does knowing you are sent with God's Presence change the way you approach conversations or relationships? What would it look like to depend more intentionally on the Holy Spirit as you live on mission this week?

Take a Step

- Where might the Holy Spirit be inviting you to rely less on yourself and more on His power this week?

Here's My Prayer

Jesus, thank You for sending me just as the Father sent You. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit and give me courage to live on mission where You've placed me. Help me trust that I go with Your presence, power, and peace. Use my life to reflect Your love and point others to You. Amen. In Jesus' name, amen.