

John 14:16 NLT - 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you.

John 16:13 NLT - 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

The Spirit is a gift to us. He fills many roles: our advocate, our counselor, the one who comes alongside to comfort us in our time of need, and He convicts us of sin. When we try to do life in our own strength, He prompts us to surrender and let His power take over.

In which role have you most often encountered God's Spirit?

WRAP-UP

Jesus told his disciples it was better for them if He went away. The only thing that is better than Jesus sitting next to you is the Holy Spirit living within you. He is one member of the Godhead, sent by the Father, whose goal it is to point people to Jesus. He is our teacher, our advocate, our guide and comforter. And if we allow Him to, He will empower us and lead us in such a way that our lives will bring glory to Jesus.

Memory Verse

But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.
- John 16:7 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members' needs: _____

Challenge: Are you ready to make a bold move toward being led by the Spirit? If so, this may be the prayer you should pray; "God, any time you want me to move, tell me and I'll move."

"It's Better This Way" "Power of the Holy Spirit" #1

INTRODUCTION

In our lives there are things that are good and then there are things that are even better. The time the disciples spent in Jesus presence was so good that they couldn't imagine there might be something better, but there was. As Jesus prepared to leave this earth, He told his disciples there would be something better for them after He was gone. He was referring to the presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling in them. As difficult as this truth was at the time, we see it borne out by the power displayed in the lives of early church believers. That truth and that power applies to us because the Holy Spirit is available in our lives as well.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

Can you think of anything you thought was really good until you discovered a way to make it even better?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

1. Who is the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is not an "it" and not a force, the Holy Spirit is fully God. We use the term trinity to describe the Godhead; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Although the word trinity doesn't appear in the bible, there are instances where we find this plural nature of God expressed. One such place is in the story of creation.

How are each of the members of the trinity involved in creation as described in the following verses?

Genesis 1:1-2 NLT - 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

John 1:1-3, 14 NLT - 1 In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He existed in the beginning with God. 3 God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. ... 14 So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

There is a unique relationship that exists amongst the Father, Son and Spirit. God is relational and He created Adam (and all mankind) in His image, to be relational as well.

Genesis 1:26a NLT - 26 Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us..."

Another place we find the trinity is at Jesus' Baptism.

What parallels do you find between the appearance of the Holy Spirit in Genesis and at Jesus' baptism?

Mark 1:10-11 NLT - 10 As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy."

2. Filled with and led by the Spirit

We probably are familiar with Jesus's close relationship with the Father, but in Luke 4 we find that Jesus was both filled with and led by the Holy Spirit.

Luke 4:1 NLT - 1 Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,

Of course, you can't fill something that is already full. Pastor David suggested that the thing we most need to be emptied of is ourselves. We do this by recognizing where our own wants, desires and agendas are competing with God's wants, desires and agendas for us.

Is there something in the past that God has asked you to surrender so that He could fill you more completely? (e.g. personal ambitions or relationships) If so, describe how you recognized and let go.

Part of the emptying process described by Pastor David involved what he called "breath prayers"; short phrases to acknowledge that you want less of you, and more of God. It's a simple reminder to reinforce our desire to be filled by God.

Have you used breath prayers? If so, what are some that you used?

If we are going to follow in Jesus' footsteps, we need to be emptied of ourselves and filled with the Holy Spirit.

3. The Role of the Holy Spirit

John 16:14 NLT - 14 He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me.

Jesus himself revealed the goal of the Holy Spirit in John 16:14. That is, to bring glory to Jesus.

We see a reflection of the Holy Spirit at work when our lives point to Jesus and bring Him glory.

What are some of the ways that our lives can bring the Kingdom of God to earth and point to Jesus?

John 14:26 NLT - 26 But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative--that is, the Holy Spirit--he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

Jesus also said the Holy Spirit would teach us and remind us of truth. But we must be willing and ready to be taught in order to receive God's truth. It is only when we have a teachable spirit that we can receive.

What is one thing you feel God has taught you during the current pandemic?