



## BEGIN WITH PRAYER

After your group has caught up on life and settled into their places, take one full minute of total quiet to let your brains slow down. Then pray and ask the Holy Spirit to lead your study and be your Teacher as you meet. Pray this especially in light of the importance of this week's study.

## OPENING QUESTIONS

Think of the last time you felt like you were in over your head. What were the circumstances? How do you typically handle times like that in your life? What part does God play in those seasons in your life?

## BIG IDEA

This week's study teaches us that we weren't designed to handle life on our own, leaving God out of the picture. In fact, we were designed specifically to embrace the help that God by His Spirit offers us. The summary of this week's lesson is simply: **I can't. God can. I'll let Him.**

## CONTEXT

The gospel of John is unique in its focus on what Jesus said about the coming of the Holy Spirit. Chapters 14, 15 and 16 contain much of the specifics we know about the person and work of this third member of the Trinity. A summary of what Jesus taught on this topic would read like this: **I've been sent by My Father to earth for a specific purpose, to redeem all who believe in Me by dying for the sins of the whole world. But once I have finished the work My Father gave me to do, I am going back to My Father. But you won't be left as orphans. No, My Father will send Another - the Holy Spirit - who will replace My presence in your lives. His ministry will be to help you in every way to continue to follow Me.** So today's study zooms in on what the Holy Spirit does in our lives.

## SCRIPTURE STUDY

This topic is of utmost importance in the life of any believer. We need to know and experience God's plan for us in relationship to the Holy Spirit. Take some time as a group to read each of the following passages taken from John 14 to 16 and make a list in the space below of anything Jesus tells His disciples about the person (who He is) and work (what He does) of the Holy Spirit:

- John 14:16-18
- John 14:25-26
- John 15:4-6
- John 15:26
- John 16:5-8
- John 16:12-14

**Person of the Holy Spirit (who is He?)**

**Work of the Holy Spirit (what does He do?)**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) How would you summarize in one sentence who the Holy Spirit is and what He does for us?
- 2) Read Romans 8:5-9. Is it possible to belong to Jesus and not have the Holy Spirit?
- 3) If it's true that the Holy Spirit was specifically sent by the Father to help us and anyone who belongs to Jesus possesses the Holy Spirit, what is happening when we aren't experiencing the benefits that Jesus said the Holy Spirit will bring to our lives?
- 4) Of everything Jesus says about the Holy Spirit, what most stands out or do you most long for or need in your life?
- 5) What do you think keeps you from experiencing those benefits? Why is it that you're missing out on this "help" from God?
- 6) Have three group members read Galatians 5:16, Galatians 5:26 and Ephesians 5:18. In essence, these three verses are saying the same thing about the Holy Spirit. What is it?

## CHALLENGE

Take a few minutes of quiet to thoughtfully consider what the Holy Spirit has been saying to each of us about His person and work. Then go around the circle and share what He's been saying to you and what you need to do because of it. Commit to one specific thing you're be putting into practice over the next week to grow in your relationship with the Holy Spirit.

## PRAYER

Take time to pray for each other. Pray specifically for what Paul writes about our relationship to the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:16 and 26 and Ephesians 5:18. Pray for His filling in your lives. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and to help you hear, follow and obey His guidance and leading.

## NEXT STEP

Perhaps last weekend's teaching and this week's study has made you hungry to know and experience more of the Holy Spirit's ministry in your life. Digging more deeply into the gospel of John chapters 14 through 16 is a great next step to take. There's nothing like Scripture to help us grow in our understanding of who God and what He does. As well, you might want to read a great book on this topic. Francis Chan's book **Forgotten God** focuses on how we tend to live with an awareness of the Father and Son in our lives, but often forget about the Holy Spirit. It's like we have been given this great Gift by the Father, but have never opened it. And we do this to our own detriment because the Father's plan from the beginning was that we would know and experience the benefits of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives. This is a short and easy-to-understand read available on Amazon.ca for \$16.