

## session 11 study guide

# the Holy Spirit

### message

The following passage from the book of John takes place during the last 24 hours of Jesus' life on Earth. In John 13–17, Jesus attempted to explain to His disciples the significant events that were about to occur. He patiently answered their questions and repeatedly explained points until they began to grasp the magnitude of His proclamations. It is in John 16 that Jesus began to explain to them that even though He would soon be leaving them, He would send the Holy Spirit to comfort and guide them.

But who—or what—is the Holy Spirit? Christians believe that the Holy Spirit is a member of the Trinity and that He dwells within us, providing comfort, guidance, power and assurance. Although the word “trinity” is never directly used in the Bible, the concept of a triune God, or three persons in one—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—is evident throughout the Scriptures (see Matthew 28:19).

As you read this passage in John, keep the following questions in mind: (1) What did Jesus say the Holy Spirit would do in our lives? (2) Have you ever felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life, guiding or directing you?

*Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, “Where are you going?” Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away.*

*Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.*

*I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine.*

*That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you (John 16:5-15).*

**dig**

1. What is Jesus referring to when He says that He is “going to him who sent me”?

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2. Why does Jesus tell the disciples, “It is for your good that I am going away”?

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3. Who does Jesus call the Holy Spirit? What does this tell you about the role the Holy Spirit will play in your life?

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4. Why did the Holy Spirit come? List the reasons for the Holy Spirit's coming from Jesus' teaching in this passage.

Verse 7: \_\_\_\_\_

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Verse 8: \_\_\_\_\_

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Verse 13: \_\_\_\_\_

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Verse 14: \_\_\_\_\_

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5. According to this passage, is the Holy Spirit a separate entity from God with a mind of His own?

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6. In Philippians 4:13, Paul states, “I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” In what areas of your life do you need to cling to this promise and rely on the support of the Holy Spirit?

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### **apply**

So what is the purpose of the Holy Spirit? Primarily, the Holy Spirit’s purpose is to be with us in the absence of Jesus, but the Bible also reveals four specific roles of the Holy Spirit.

#### **to dwell inside us**

1. Read 1 Corinthians 3:16. In this verse, what does it mean to be God’s “temple”?

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2. Read 1 Corinthians 6:18-20. From what particular type of sins does this verse say we must flee?

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3. How does Paul state these sins are different?

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4. How are you obeying verse 20, “Therefore honor God with your body”?

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to empower us to live the christian life

1. What do these verses state about how the Holy Spirit helps us?

Romans 14:17: \_\_\_\_\_

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1 Corinthians 2:6-12: \_\_\_\_\_

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Romans 8:26-27: \_\_\_\_\_

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Romans 5:5: \_\_\_\_\_

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1 Corinthians 12:4-11: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. In order to have the power of God working in your life, you must surrender and submit yourself to the control of the Holy Spirit. How can you best surrender and submit yourself to God?

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to provide us with the power to witness

Jesus doesn't say that you can share your faith when you want to, when it's convenient or when you are comfortable with doing so. He commands each of us in the Great Commission to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Fortunately, God provides the Holy Spirit to aid in this task.

1. Acts 1:7-8 records Jesus' final words to His disciples. What promise did He give to them?

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2. What intimidates you the most about sharing the gospel with others?

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3. Do you find it easier to share your faith with friends or with strangers? Why?

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4. Read Mark 13:10-11. How can this verse reassure us as we move forward to share our faith with others?

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5. Who are the individuals in your life with whom you could share your faith? List their names here.

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to give us the assurance of our salvation

1. According to Ephesians 1:13-14, what does the Holy Spirit do for us?

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2. What assurance is found in Romans 8:16-17?

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3. According to Romans 8:26-27, what is the benefit of having the Holy Spirit reside within?

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**reflect**

1. What does it mean to “walk in the Spirit” or “live by the Spirit”?

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2. What keeps believers from submitting to God's Spirit?

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3. Describe a time when you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life guiding or directing you.

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4. What is the Holy Spirit doing in your life today, this week, this month?

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Do you need a fresh start with the Holy Spirit? To prepare your heart for the guiding and empowering of the Holy Spirit, you must:

1. **Desire to live for God.** "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled" (Matthew 5:6).
2. **Be willing to surrender and submit your will (life) to God.** "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:1-2).
3. **Confess your sins.** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).
4. **Be filled with the Spirit.** "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18).
5. **Live by the Spirit.** "So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature" (Galatians 5:16).

## meditation



And I will ask the Father, and he will give you  
another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth.  
The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him.  
But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave  
you as orphans; I will come to you.

JOHN 14:15-18