

# Equipping the apprentice: sermon notes discussion guide

based on **John 14:15-31 and 16:7-15** (Linked to sermon of 10/10/21)  
which can be accessed at [www.stjamesbythepark.org/talks](http://www.stjamesbythepark.org/talks)



This was part of a series: Being an apprentice

**Intro:** This is the third in our series on being Jesus' apprentices. Traditionally we talk about being disciples but the image of being Jesus' apprentices offers us a fresh perspective on how we learn to follow Jesus. In these passages we discover the good news that Jesus not only commands us but equips us to fulfil these commands. How wonderful is that. We will look at the gift of the Holy Spirit and how he empowers us to live our lives as Jesus' apprentices.

We will use three new headings for the sermon notes: head (looking at the Scripture and beginning to understand what it means), heart (allowing God's word to go deeper), hands (what are the practical out workings of these Scriptures?) Feel free to begin each session with a time of worship. For each set of sermon notes I will suggest a psalm, Scripture or song you can use.

**Worship:** Read Psalm 139:7-18 together and praise God for the gift of His Spirit and that he is always with us. We often direct our prayers to Jesus or God. Try praying to the Holy Spirit.

## **Head:**

These passages come just prior to Jesus' crucifixion. He is trying to prepare his disciples for a time when he will no longer be physically with them. He has given them some tough instructions and commands to follow but here he encourages the disciples that he is not leaving them ill-equipped.

Read through John 14:15-31 and discuss the following:

1. How is the Holy Spirit described in verses 16-17,26? (It might help to know that the Greek word used in verse 16 is *paracletos*, which literally means one called alongside, hence advocate or helper)
2. From these descriptions, how do you think the Holy Spirit equips us to be disciples?

3. How does Jesus emphasise the unity of
  - a. He and his Father?
  - b. He and his followers?
  - c. What binds them together?
4. What does Jesus leave the disciples with in verse 27? What do you think he means by “not as the world gives”?

Now read John 16:7-15

5. How does this passage reinforce Jesus’ words in the previous passage?
6. What do we additionally find out about the work of the Holy Spirit?

### **Heart:**

Now read the passages again individually and prayerfully. Give some time for individual reflection and then share with one another, as you feel comfortable.

What particular verses or images resonate or leap out at you and why?

What might God be trying to say to you personally through these verses?

Do any of the passages make you uncomfortable? Discuss these. It may be that God is prompting you.

If time, spend some time thinking about how you imagine the Holy Spirit. You could get creative and draw and write words and phrases. You might like to do a short study on the Holy Spirit as well (but that might be something to do later as a follow up for your own reflections). Here are some verses to ponder:

Acts 2:1-4

Matthew 3:11

John 20:22

Romans 8:26

1 Corinthians 2:10

1 John 3:24

### **Hands:**

When I think of the Holy Spirit, I often associate her with oil. In the Bible oil is used for many things - cooking, cleaning (the Romans used olive oil instead of soap), lighting and anointing. It’s a great metaphor for the Holy Spirit, who nourishes us, washes us clean, lights the way and anoints us to be Christ’s disciples. We are called in Ephesians 5:18 to be filled with the Holy Spirit (what the Greek says is actually keep being filled, an ongoing process). Finish the evening by praying over one another for a filling of the Holy Spirit, asking God to equip each one for the week ahead.

“By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us because He has given us His Spirit” 1 John 4:13