

Come, Holy Spirit

discussion guide

based on **Romans 8.1-27**

which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series

This was a one-off sermon for Pentecost

Intro: If you'd been in the crowd at the first Pentecost (Acts 2), what would you have made of it? If you'd been one of the believers suddenly filled with the Spirit, what would you have made of it?

Read Romans 8.1-27

Chapter 7 was about the weakness of the law; chapter 8 is about the power of the Spirit.

v1-4 We normally think of Jesus as the one who sets us free. What role does the Spirit play in setting us free?

What are we set free from? What does that mean in practice?

How would you summarise what it means to live 'according to the Spirit' (v4, but see v5-14 as well)?

In what areas of your life are you seeking the Spirit's help to 'put to death the misdeeds of the body' (v13)?

v15-17 How do you normally address God in prayer? How might calling God 'Father / Daddy' help you grow in confidence in prayer?

Dan talked about how we tend to find our security through our identity. What sort of self-identifying labels do we give ourselves?

How easy do you find it to think of yourself primarily as a 'child of God'? How might that help to give security through the challenges of life?

v26-27 Share some times when you've felt uncertain how to pray.

What might it look like to rely on the Spirit to pray for us at those times?

How could v27 give particular encouragement at those times?

How does this passage speak to our desire to be a God-dependent, grace-filled, Bible-based, mission-focused, authentic community?

Up (love God): Look at all the different ways the Spirit is described in v1-27, and what he's said to do. It's a long list! Share what stands out for you.

Praise God for the gift of the Holy Spirit, and pray that he would go on filling you day by day. Spend some time waiting on God, open to the Spirit's work amongst you.

In (love each other): A Christian says to you, "I used to feel the Spirit, but I don't anymore." How would you reply to encourage them?

Out (reach the world): A non-Christian friend who likes to see good in everything says "We're all children of god." In the light of this passage, how would you respond?

Continue to spend time discussing the 7 mission priority areas and your individual / collective response to them.