

The Holy Spirit in John 14-16

discussion guide

not based on any particular sermon!

In John 14-16, Jesus returns to the same themes repeatedly, developing them each time. So rather than look at just one passage linked to one sermon, this discussion guide draws together the two main passages that relate to Jesus' teaching about the Holy Spirit.

Intro: What image do you most associate with the Holy Spirit – dove? fire? wind? something else? why?

Read John 14.15-27

What titles are given to the Holy Spirit in this passage?

What roles is the Holy Spirit said to play in this passage?

Which of these titles and roles do you most need to benefit from at the moment? Why?

Why is it significant that the Holy Spirit is described as '*another* Counsellor'?

Why do you think this teaching about the Holy Spirit comes in the context of Jesus talking about loving him and obeying him?

Read John 15.26 - 16.15

What titles and roles are given to the Holy Spirit in this section?

If the Spirit of truth testifies about Jesus (v26), why must we also testify (v27)?

Conversely, if we're to testify about Jesus, why do we need the Holy Spirit? See also John 20.21-22.

16.7 must have been a real shock to the disciples! Likewise, it's easy for us to think that we'd rather have Jesus in the person, than the Holy Spirit inside us. Why, then, is it for our good that we have the Holy Spirit? In what ways is he 'better' than Jesus?

In 16.8-11, Jesus talks about the Holy Spirit's ministry in 'the world' as opposed to 'in Christians'. In what ways is it encouraging to know that the Holy Spirit is at work in those who aren't yet Christians?

Verses 9-11 are hard to understand, but the gist seems to be that the Holy Spirit makes people acknowledge their sin (of not believing in Jesus), appreciate the rightness of Jesus' sacrifice (because Jesus' resurrection and ascension - his 'going to the Father' - vindicated his death on the cross as worthwhile not useless), and acknowledging Jesus as our rightful judge (because by his death and resurrection he triumphed over the devil - the 'prince of this world' - see Acts 17.31). How have you seen the Holy Spirit do this work in people who weren't (or still aren't) Christians?

Verses 12-15 are easier to understand! What encouragement do you draw from these verses?

How do these passages speak to our desire to be a God-dependent, grace-filled, Bible-based, mission-focused, authentic community?

Spend a few minutes individually, trying to write a summary sentence of what Jesus has taught you about the Holy Spirit from these verses. (There's no prizes for the longest or most comprehensive sentence! You might just write a short sentence which focuses on one part of Jesus' teaching, which has particularly stood out to you.) Share what you've written.

Up: Pray that the Holy Spirit would be powerfully active in us individually and as a church.

In: Pray for each other to be filled with God's Spirit, bearing in mind what you shared just now.

Out: Pray for God's Spirit to be at work in the lives of specific people you know who aren't yet Christians.