

Holy God, your Holy Spirit empowers us and comforts us. Help us to embody that Spirit that you give us that we might shine a light on all the world in need. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*In this lesson, we'll be looking at how God's Spirit is active in the life of the Church. Note: for the first two days of this lesson, while certain verses have been specified, you would do well to read all of Chapters 14, 15, & 16. Get a sense of what Jesus is **really** trying to say to his disciples as he is saying goodbye to them before his death. That will help you understand the theology and role of the Holy Spirit ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN better.*

Day 1 Read John 14:15-31

1. These verses in John and those following make up what is known as Jesus' "Farewell Discourse" In verse 16, Jesus has promised to send the Holy Spirit to the disciples.
 - a. Who does Jesus say is being sent to be with them?

 - b. In verse 18, Jesus gives a clue as to why he is promising them the Advocate. What does he say there?

 - c. The Greek word used by John to describe this one who is sent is *paraclete*, which carries the meaning of "helper" or "advocate" or "comforter" or "one who goes alongside and accompanies." Why might the disciples need someone to come alongside them given what is about to happen to Jesus?

2. In verses 26 and 27 what does Jesus promise them and give them?.

Day 2 Read John 16:1-15

- 3a. Why does Jesus say that it is to our advantage that Jesus goes away?
 - b. What do you think Jesus means by that?

- 4a. What does Jesus call the Holy Spirit in verse 13?
 - b. What truth do you think gets revealed to us through the Holy Spirit?

Day 3 Read John 20:19-23

5. Jesus appears to his disciples the night after the Resurrection (on Easter Sunday Evening, if you will).
 - a. What does he do and say to them in verse 22?

- b. Where have we seen, read, heard this before in this study? And so what is Jesus doing for the disciples?

For the remainder of this lesson, notice we are moving away from the Gospel of John and that theology of the Holy Spirit and now moving into the book of Acts, which was written by Luke. Notice the different theology of the Holy Spirit. What does the Holy Spirit do in Acts?

Day 4 Read Acts 2:1-47

6. It is the day of Pentecost according to this story.
 - a. Where are the disciples gathered and what are they doing?

 - b. Suddenly what happens and what happens to them?

- 7a. This is very different from the Holy Spirit we were promised in John. Look what happens to Peter. What is Peter doing in verses 14-36? How is this different than the Peter we have known (especially the one who denied Jesus 3 times)? And to what do you attribute this change?
 - b. What was the result of this preaching and movement of the Holy Spirit in verses 41-47?

 - c. So, then, what do we discover is the power of the Holy Spirit according to this story?

Day 5 Read Acts 10:34-48

8. Peter begins to realize that the salvation God has given through Jesus is not reserved just for Jews, but that Gentiles may be included as well.
 - a. As Peter is preaching, what happens in verses 44-46 to those around him?

 - b. So, then what is the role of the Holy Spirit on people who hear the Word of God?

Day 6

9. In this study, you were introduced to two very different theologies of the Holy Spirit. One from John and one from Acts. Which one do you more closely connect with? Is there one you struggle with? Does this presentation of the Holy Spirit differ from what you thought the Holy Spirit was like?