



A Church Familiar with God the Holy Spirit

IceBreaker: Do you prefer tea or coffee? If you say neither, what do you drink in the morning?

Read Together: John 14:26 (ESV), John 15:26 (ESV), John 16:7 (ESV), Acts 1:4-5 (NIV)

“The work of the Holy Spirit is to manifest the active presence of the God in the world, and especially in the Church.” - Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology

Discuss:

- Every part of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) points to the other parts to reveal more aspects of God. What are some ways you have seen the Father and Son point to the Holy Spirit?
- What is your experience with the Holy Spirit?
- What have you been taught in your spiritual tradition about the Holy Spirit?
- The Holy Spirit is a Helper. How have you seen Him Help you?
- Jesus said that it was to our **advantage** that He would go away so that the Helper would come. What do you think about that statement? Do you think the Disciples thought it was to their advantage that Jesus would leave?
- God the Holy Spirit is working in our midst. Do we understand what that means?
- A lot of things have been
- Romans 8:23 – The guarantee that we will one day experience the FULL presence of God. We have His presence NOW, but not FULLY. Not yet. We get glimpses of the fullness of God. What are some ways that you have gotten a glimpse of God’s glory so far?

The Activity of God the Holy Spirit

1. Is to bring life and to be a blessing.

Read Together: Isaiah 32:14-18 (ESV), Isaiah 44:3 (ESV), Isaiah 63:10 (ESV) and 1 Corinthians 6:19 (NIV)

Discuss:

- Isaiah looked ahead and saw the age that we are living in. The Holy Spirit wants to bring life to the areas that have died. What areas of your fullness of living have died?

- We must not take the Holy Spirit for Granted. In Isaiah, we see that when the Holy Spirit was disinvited, He turned against them. In what ways have you dis-invited the Holy Spirit from your life?
- How have you invited the Holy Spirit to be active in your life?
- Can we honestly say that the role of the Holy Spirit in our life is similar to the presence of Jesus in the lives of the disciples? Is the Holy Spirit that real to us? Do we want Him to be?
- We can forget, that HE (The Holy Spirit) is a person. We are to consciously relate to Him as a Person, whose function is distinct from God the Father and God the Son. He wants to bring life to the things that have died.

Consider together:

Whatever you give God the Holy Spirit access to, His nature is to bless and to breathe new life into whatever He has been given access to. He will not force His way into any of our lives. He will not force you to give him access to your mind, your obedience etc. He will convict you, he will show you, but he will not force you. He will not force you to use the gifts he has given you. He will not force you to walk in the supernatural. But if you do let him in your life, He will RESPOND.

Discuss:

- As we ponder that God will respond to our invitation to the Holy Spirit, do you have fears about what His response will be? What are the things you fear?
- A lot of people have seen the gifts of the Holy Spirit be misused. If that is your experience, what do you fear and how can do you need the Holy Spirit to heal you so that you can once again welcome His work in your life?
- A yes to the Holy Spirit is a yes to a life of adventure and fullness of the God almighty. He is available. He is just asking for access.
- God, the Holy Spirit wants you to know that He is ALL of those things that you need.
- How will you respond to God the Holy Spirit?

Pray together:

Come Holy Spirit. You lead us today. We welcome you in our midst. IN our church, in our small group, we follow you according to your word. We open our hearts with intent to be humble. You come and have your way. We give you full access today. Forgive us for not walking in the advantage of we can be with the Holy Spirit. Forgive us for being afraid. Forgive us for letting a theological construct from preventing us from receiving the fullness of WHO you are. We recognize that you are HERE today. We invite you into our need today. We welcome you to be our power. Show us who you are and how to relate to you. In the name of Jesus! Amen!