

### Scripture Text

John 14:15-31, 15:26-27, 16:4-15

### Context

This passage has happened after Jesus has had the Passover meal where He has told his disciples that He will be leaving them, that one will betray him, and that Peter will deny Him. There is a lot of uncertainty in the disciples concerning Jesus, and they are troubled (14:1), as where He is going, they cannot come (13:36). He teaches them for 3 chapters before praying for them in Chapter 17.

### Observation & Meaning

- Why is it advantageous for the disciples that Jesus will go? In what way is this advantageous?
- Look through the various passages (John 14:15-31, 15:26-27, 16:4-15) and note the interaction between the Father, Son and Spirit. What does this tell you about the Holy Spirit and about the Trinity?
- What are the similarities and differences between His work with Christians and non-Christians (the world)?
- What condition is given for the Holy Spirit dwelling with us?

### Big Idea

We should be greatly encouraged that Jesus has not left us as orphans but has sent His Spirit to be with us for comfort, godliness and mission.

### Connecting to the whole Bible's storyline

Sin has separated us from God, leading us to be cut off from Him and unable to dwell with Him. Jesus then came as Immanuel, God with us. Because of His death and resurrected, God's Spirit is sent to be both with us and to dwell in us, so that we become God's temple. When Christ returns we

will dwell with God in the new heavens and earth.

### Sermon outline

1. Who on earth is the Holy Spirit
  - God Himself who has come to dwell with us
2. What on earth has the Holy Spirit come to do?
  - Convict non-Christians in order to lead them to Christ
  - Help believers by assuring us of the truth, which glorifies Christ
3. How we know we are keeping in step with the Holy Spirit
  - We have fellowship with God
  - Our conduct begins to reflect Jesus
  - We are empowered for mission

### Application

1. How does the fact of the Holy Spirit being God affect your view of Him and His work?
2. What does it mean for us to know God? How does the promise of the Holy Spirit encourage you to know God, rather than only know about Him?
3. What does this passage say we are to do in order to enjoy greater fellowship with the Holy Spirit, and what in particular does that mean for you?
4. How does the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of non-Christians increase your faith to pray for them?
5. How does the empowering of the Holy Spirit encourage you to share your faith with others?

## Guide for Study Leaders

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

### Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

### Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. "for", "if", "therefore"), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author's purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

Who is writing and to whom?  
What is the situation of the author and of the readers?  
Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?  
Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

### Application

Apply God's word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good "heart" questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.