

The Holy Spirit at Work: Small Group Guide

Week 2: Comforting Guidance

April 19, 2026

Icebreaker Question

Share about a coach, mentor, or teacher who significantly impacted your life. What made their guidance memorable or transformational?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **The Holy Spirit as Coach:** The Spirit works intentionally to lead us in incremental steps toward becoming more like Christ throughout our lives.
 2. **Five Coaching Functions of the Spirit:**
 - Brings comfort and intercedes for us
 - Speaks truth into our lives
 - Convicts us of sin
 - Trains us in spiritual gifts, fruits, wisdom, and promptings
 - Reminds us of foundational truths
 3. **Awareness is Essential:** We need to become more aware and responsive to the Spirit's multilayered work in our lives.
 4. **Long-term Impact:** Seeds planted through faithful teaching and Spirit-led moments may not bear visible fruit for years or even decades.
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Spirit's Work

1. The Concept of "Coaching"

- How does thinking of the Holy Spirit as a "coach" rather than a "ghost" change your perspective on His work in your life?
- What differences do you see between human coaching and the Spirit's coaching?

2. Personal Awareness

- Pastor Fred asked: "How lately has the Holy Spirit been coaching you?" Take a moment to reflect silently, then share if comfortable: In what area of your life do you sense the Spirit has been "poking, prodding, encouraging, or correcting" you recently?

The Spirit's Specific Functions

3. Comfort and Intercession

- Romans 8:26-27 describes the Spirit interceding for us "with wordless groans." Have you experienced a time when you couldn't find words to pray, but sensed God's presence anyway? What was that like?

4. Truth and Reminders

- Share an example of when the Spirit reminded you of a biblical truth at just the right moment. How did that reminder impact your situation?
- What "coincidences" have you experienced that might actually be the Spirit's multilayered work (like Pastor Fred's John 15 experience)?

5. Conviction

- Why is conviction an act of love rather than condemnation? How do you distinguish between the Spirit's conviction and unhealthy guilt or shame?
- Is there an area where you've been resisting the Spirit's conviction? (This can be discussed generally without requiring personal disclosure.)

6. Gifts, Fruits, and Promptings

- Have you identified your spiritual gifts? If so, how are you currently using them? If not, what steps could you take to discover them?
- Which fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) do you sense the Spirit is currently developing in you?
- Have you ever experienced a clear "prompting" from the Spirit? What happened?

Application from Sarah's Story

7. Clickable Moments

- Sarah's story illustrates how a simple Sunday school lesson planted a seed that bore fruit years later during a crisis. What "clickable moments" from your past have sustained you during difficult times?
- How does Sarah's testimony encourage those who faithfully teach or serve without seeing immediate results?

Closing Prayer

Guided Prayer Focus:

- Thank the Spirit for His faithful coaching work in each person's life
- Ask for increased awareness and responsiveness to His guidance

- Pray for those teaching in Sunday school or other ministry contexts
- Request wisdom, discernment, and courage to follow the Spirit's promptings

Consider praying through John 15:1-4 (the "abide" passage referenced in the sermon)