

Who Is The Holy Spirit?

Connect Group Guide - 5.31.26

Begin your group time by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and open hearts to His truth.

Icebreaker

Before becoming a Christian (or early in your faith), what misconceptions did you have about the Holy Spirit?

Key Scripture References

- John 14:26

Message Recap

This week, Pastor Mike taught us that the Holy Spirit is not just a feeling, emotion, or force—He is the third person of the Trinity who lives inside every believer. Jesus said it was better for Him to leave so the Holy Spirit could come and dwell within us, transforming us from the inside out.

Key Takeaways

- 1. The Holy Spirit is a Person, Not an "It"**
 - He speaks, teaches, leads, comforts, convicts, and empowers
 - He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30) and lied to (Acts 5:3-4)
 - He is God—the third person of the Trinity
- 2. The Holy Spirit is God's Presence Inside of Us**
 - Your body is now the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19)
 - Unlike Jesus in the flesh who could only be in one place, the Holy Spirit can be with all believers simultaneously
 - We carry God's presence everywhere we go
- 3. The Holy Spirit Reveals Jesus**
 - His primary purpose is to magnify Jesus, not draw attention to Himself
 - He illuminates Scripture and makes God's Word come alive
 - He opens our understanding to truth that transforms
- 4. The Holy Spirit Convicts and Changes Us**
 - Conviction says "you need Jesus" (not condemnation which says "you're hopeless")
 - He transforms us internally, not just externally
 - He changes our desires, appetites, and hearts from the inside out
- 5. The Holy Spirit Empowers Us**
 - The Christian life was never meant to be lived in human strength alone
 - Without Him: worship becomes routine, ministry exhausting, Christianity powerless
 - With Him: fear becomes boldness, weakness becomes strength, ordinary people become vessels for God

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Holy Spirit

- How does viewing the Holy Spirit as a person rather than a force or feeling change your relationship with Him?
- Read John 14:16-17 and John 16:7. Why do you think Jesus said it was "for your good" that He go away so the Holy Spirit could come?
- Pastor Mike said, "Where did you take the Holy Spirit this week?" How does knowing that God dwells within you affect your daily choices and behaviors?

Personal Reflection

- Share a time when you felt the Holy Spirit convict you of something. How did you respond? What was the difference between conviction and condemnation in that moment?
- The message mentioned that religion tries to change behavior externally while the Holy Spirit transforms internally. Have you experienced the difference? What does internal transformation look like in your life?
- What desires or appetites has the Holy Spirit changed in your life since you became a believer?

Living in the Spirit's Power

- Pastor Mike said many Christians walk around "powerless" and "defeated" because they're living in the flesh rather than the Spirit's power. What does it practically look like to live in the Spirit's power versus your own strength?
- The Holy Spirit "pulls" us toward God, away from sin, toward truth, toward worship, and toward our purpose. In which of these areas do you most need to feel His pull right now?
- How can we as a group help each other surrender more fully to the Holy Spirit's work in our lives?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one or more of these practical steps to take this week:

1. **Daily Invitation:** Each morning, specifically invite the Holy Spirit to guide your day. Before making decisions, pause and ask, "Holy Spirit, what do you want me to do here?"
2. **Listen and Obey:** Set aside 15 minutes each day to sit quietly and listen to what the Holy Spirit might be saying to you. Journal what you sense Him communicating.
3. **Scripture Illumination:** Before reading the Bible, pray specifically asking the Holy Spirit to open your understanding and make the Word come alive to you.
4. **Awareness Exercise:** Throughout the week, pause regularly to remember that the Holy Spirit lives within you. Ask yourself: "Where am I taking Him right now? What is He hearing/seeing through me?"
5. **Surrender Something:** Identify one area where you've been operating in your own strength. Specifically surrender it to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to work through you instead.

Looking Ahead

Next week we'll continue our series on the Holy Spirit. Come prepared to share how you experienced the Holy Spirit's presence and power this week!

Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to people who may be carrying deep shame or feeling unworthy
- Emphasize that this is a safe space where everyone has a seat at the table
- Consider having communion together as a group if appropriate
- Follow up during the week with anyone who shared something particularly vulnerable

Prayer Requests & Closing