

The Helper—In Us
Study Questions
John 16:5-15

Warm-up

1) Who is one of the people you trust the most?

Is there a story that illustrates how much you trust them?

How did that person come to earn so much trust?

A little deeper

2) [John 16:5-7] Jesus told His disciples that He was going away, and this was necessary so that He could send the Holy Spirit to them. It's not that Jesus and the Holy Spirit couldn't both be present at the same time, but that He had to atone for our sin before the Holy Spirit could work in each of us who make up His church. **What do you think might be different in the hearts of people who believe that Jesus died to take away their sin, versus people who don't?**

How might these differences impact the effectiveness of a Holy Spirit that does not force us to do anything?

3) [John 16:8-11] Jesus said the Spirit would prove the world wrong about sin, righteousness, and judgment. **What does the world say about these things?** (Different groups have different views, so try to come up with several answers.)

What do the reasons that Jesus gives in verses 9-11 really mean? (It may help to look up these verses in different translations, particularly contrasting with *The Message*.)

How does the Spirit work in us to prove the world wrong on each point?

4) [John 16:12-15] Jesus said that all that belongs to God the Father is also His, and that He will give to us through the Holy Spirit, or more specifically, the Spirit of Truth. The word used for *truth* here was *alétheia*, which means *reality* (as in, the opposite of illusion). **What are some modern illusions or falsehoods that are easy for folks to be fooled by?**

How does the Spirit of Truth (or Reality) help us to combat these falsehoods?

Bringing it home

5) Are there any inconsistencies or falsehoods in your life right now that the Spirit of Truth has convicted you of? (If you are not ready to share it with the group, then at least commit to them that you will confess to someone you trust afterward so that they can help hold you accountable.)

Conversely, are there any revelations given to you through the Spirit of Truth that seem appropriate to share?

6) As Jesus pointed out in John 16:6, the truth can often be painful—sometimes too painful to bear alone. Is there a painful truth that you would like to share, so that others can share the burden with you?

Reflection & Prayer

7) As you pray today, give praise to our God that He not only sent His Son to die for our sin, but that He also sends His Spirit to us so that we may have a more intimate relationship with Him on a daily basis.