

HOLY SPIRIT

THE COMFORTER HAS COME

WEEK 1 STUDY QUESTIONS

The Holy Spirit. Though we include the Spirit in our prayers, and mention the Spirit in our songs, how much do we actually know about Him? In this series, we will understand who the Spirit is, how He works and how He interacts with us. In this first week, we will look at who the Holy Spirit is- the Comforter whom Jesus promised.

Before we jump into the Scriptures, consider this question: What are your current views on the Holy Spirit? If you are with a group, share anything that comes to mind. If you're studying on your own, really think about what your views on the Holy Spirit are. Either way, write down whatever comes to mind:

(Remember what you wrote here: we will compare it to what you think/feel at the end of week 5)

Read John 14:15-17

What sticks out to you about this passage?

One thing to remember is the context- Jesus was sharing these words with His disciples at what we call the Last Supper. The thing is, the disciples had no idea it would be their last meal with the pre-resurrection Jesus. But Jesus was sharing these as some of His last words before He would go to the Cross.

Knowing the significance of the moment, what about these words of Jesus carries more weight for you?

How can you see the Trinity at work in this passage?

Jesus reveals that the Holy Spirit is the promised advocate/counselor/comforter (depending on what translation you are using). But the original Greek word is **Parakletos**. This means someone who is called in during times of trouble, especially into a court of law to advocate on someone's behalf or to give legal advice.

Also, even the way we understand the word "comfort" in the 21st Century is different than when they translated the Bible into English. At that time, they would have understood comfort in relation to the Latin word **fortis**. This means brave or courageous.

So Jesus is saying that the Holy Spirit is one who instills courage, who counsels us, who represents us, and advocates for us.

Does this change the way you view the role of the Holy Spirit as comforter?

Read John 4:22-24

Here, Jesus is speaking to the Samaritan woman near the well. But he makes a profound statement about the nature of God, and how we ought to worship.

What do you think it means to worship God in spirit and in truth?

In what ways can you allow the Holy Spirit to be your advocate this week? How do you need him to comfort you?

In what ways can you lean into worshipping in spirit and in truth in the daily rhythms of your life?

Prayer

Father, thank you for the promise of the Holy Spirit. Thank you that we have not been left alone, but that we have an advocate. Jesus, thank you for sending the Spirit just like you promised. Holy Spirit, come and fill us. Be the advocate we need. Comfort us, and fill us with courage. Counsel us, and fill us with wisdom. May our lives look more like Heaven as we continue to worship you. In the name of Jesus we pray, amen.