

The Holy Spirit | Week 1 - The Holy Spirit is Speaking to You

Message Big Idea

The Holy Spirit communicates with us, revealing and guiding us in the way of Jesus

Scripture

John 14:15-26, 16:7-15

Points to Keep in Mind

1. The question about B.L.E.S.S. at the beginning of the guide is one way we can keep the B.L.E.S.S. practices as a continual focus of our church. Give everyone 15 seconds or so to answer the question. Be encouraging to those who are practicing these and those who haven't established B.L.E.S.S. as a pattern in their lives.
2. The Gospel of John portrays the Holy Spirit as an advocate who pleads our case – one on our side. The orphan language suggests an advocate who speaks on behalf of someone who doesn't have a voice. The Holy Spirit lives within us. The Holy Spirit will lead us to keep the commands of Jesus. The Holy Spirit will produce fruit in us. The Holy Spirit will convict us when we don't live like Jesus and help us lead a life like Jesus. The Holy Spirit points to Jesus – “He will glorify me.” The Holy Spirit will speak the truth about Jesus.
3. Don't let negative connotations of “obey” trip up the group. The Greek word for “obey” is “tereo,” which means to “have in view, observe, to guard, or protect.” This doesn't mean conformity “with no questions asked.” It might help to think about obedience in the following way: Jesus commands us to love God and love others. Fulfilling that command may look different from one day to the next. Jesus' command to “obey” is a different kind of command than “clean your room.” It requires thought, attention, and creativity. So each day, we have to consider how to love God and others, and when we creatively observe or pay attention to Jesus' commands and ask the Spirit to help us, our hearts and minds will gradually be shaped to be more like Jesus. Obedience in this way is not about compliance or conformity to a rule, but a careful consideration of how to live with love in the various situations life sends our way.
4. God is portrayed as a speaking God all through the Bible. It's by God's speech that the world is made (see Genesis 1). It is by speech and action that the Lord is distinguished among idols (Isaiah 44:6-8); God speaks through creation (Psalm 19), God has spoken through his Son (Heb. 1:1-2), and God speaks through the Holy Spirit.
5. The opening question should set up the question about hearing from God in Scripture, prayer, people, and circumstances. Give grace to this question. We may not always know if what we are hearing is God speaking to us, so it's good for us to check what we are hearing with others, Scripture, and the testimony of the Church.
6. If time allows, practice Lectio Divina. If not, you can skip that section and continue with the last two questions. If you practice Lectio, and your group enjoys it, this kind of reading can be a powerful one to practice regularly.