

STUDY GUIDE

This week we will take time to study about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was the sole reason the church got off to a good start after Jesus ascended to be with God the Father. Who is the Holy Spirit and what does the Holy Spirit do?

Monday, January 9 – Read Genesis 1:1-2 and 2:1-7. These two creation accounts describe the origins of the cosmos and of our shared humanity. The Holy Spirit is present in both stories. How is the Spirit described in the opening verses of the Bible? What does the Spirit seem to be doing? When God creates Adam in Genesis 2:7 he seems to do it in two phases: First is the physical body created from the “dust of the ground”. The second is the impartation of “the breath of life” by which he becomes a “living being”. In both places it is the “wind” and “breath” of God active in creation. What does this teach us about the Holy Spirit? How does your Bible describe Adam in Genesis 2:7?

Tuesday, January 10 – Read John 16:5-16. This well known passage from John’s gospel is known as “the Upper Room Discourse.” In it Jesus is preparing his disciples for his imminent departure. Jesus gives several promises concerning the soon to be given Holy Spirit. Why does Jesus tell the disciples it is to their advantage that he will soon be leaving them? Who will come in his place? Does this sound like a fair trade? List all of the ways this “Counselor” is intended to help the disciples. What points of application do these texts have for us as Jesus’ present day disciples?

Wednesday, January 11 - Read Romans 8:1-17. This text takes us to some of the highest vistas concerning the Holy Spirit in all of Scripture. Here the Holy Spirit is described as a new empowering presence, greater than the Old Covenant law, giving believers an energizing capacity to overcome our inevitable decline into sin and death. How is the Spirit described in 8:11 and what does Paul say is the relationship of Jesus’ resurrection and our experience of faith? What does say the Holy Spirit helps us to know in verses 15 and 16? How can we grow in this experience?

Thursday, January 12 – The Holy Spirit is the agent of our spiritual rebirth. Read John 3:1-15. The term “born again” has become part of contemporary culture. What did Jesus mean when he told Nicodemus he needed to be born again? What metaphor does Jesus use to describe the Spirit? Do we always know the exact moment of our “rebirth?” In what ways does the spiritual birth and growth parallel our biological life? What can you discover in the Bible about what became of Nicodemus?

Friday, January -13 - Read Acts 1:1-8 and Acts 2:1- 41. What did Jesus promise the disciples the Holy Spirit would do in and through them? How can we see this fulfilled in the preaching ministry of Peter in chapter 2? How might you draw upon the Spirit’s power to be His witness? Can you name three people in your life that have yet to trust in Christ personally? How might you become a witness for Christ to them? Can you begin by praying for them?

Saturday, January 14 - Read I Corinthians 12:1-31. Here Paul describes the gifts of the Holy Spirit. What does he say is the purpose of spiritual gifts in verse 7? To whom are they given? What gifts does Paul list as potentially available to Christ’s people in verses 8-11? What misguided motivations are Paul addressing in verses 12-26? How might these gifts work together to benefit the entire church? What does Paul say is the highest motivation for the exercise of spiritual gifts in chapter 13?