



## Week 5

# Belong

Start the group with an opportunity for community. We want this to be a place where the body of Christ can belong.

- If you feel comfortable, name one way that God has blessed you this week. What is a difficulty in your life the group can be praying about?
- Of the three members of the trinity, the Holy Spirit is usually the least emphasized. Why do you think that is?

# Believe

## The Apostle's Creed – Part 5

'I believe in the Holy Spirit...'

### John 14: 15-18

#### Jesus Promises Another Helper

15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be with you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

## John 14: 25-31

### The Gift of His Peace

25 “These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to you remembrance all things that I said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. 28 You have heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away and coming back to you.’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, ‘I am going to the Father,’ for My Father is greater than I.

29 And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. 30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. 31 But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.

Holman Study Bible, New King James Version (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2014), Jn 14:15-18, 25-31

Often when we think of the gospel, we think only of what God has done in the past. God created us for relationship with him. Then, after we sinned, Christ came to redeem us for relationship with him. However, in rather shortsighted fashion we miss the present reality of the gospel.

Yes, God the Father created us for relationship. Yes, God the Son, redeemed us for relationship. AND, God the Spirit has come to give us relationship!

In John 14, when Jesus begins to prepare the disciples for his departure, he introduces them to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes as the third person of the Trinity who will empower the believers to walk in relationship to Jesus. He helps the believers through life. He teaches believers how to follow Jesus. He brings the presence of God to the people of God by manifesting himself to believers.

Jesus’ point could not be any clearer: the good news is not limited to what God has done in the past. The good news is also who God is right now for believers in the Holy Spirit?

#### Discuss:

How is the Holy Spirit important to the life of the believer? What function does the Holy Spirit perform?

Why is it important to recognize the Holy Spirit as a part of the Trinity equal to the Son and the Father?

Is the Spirit meant to be a replacement for Jesus after His ascension? What does it mean for Jesus to ascend to Heaven, but for the Spirit to come down to Earth?

## Become

The presence of the Holy Spirit is significant for believers because he offers us a radically different life than we might be accustomed to. You see, most Christians are content to live a life that is full of knowledge about God. However, they never actually get to live a life in the presence of God. The Holy Spirit changes that. He has come that we might walk with God every single day. He has come that we might walk in the presence and power of God daily. This is different than knowledge about God in your head. This is life with God in your heart.

### Discuss:

The Holy Spirit dwells in every believer. How does knowledge of His presence change how you live and follow Jesus?

Do you live in such a way that it is evident that you believe the Holy Spirit is with you? Does having the Holy Spirit bring you the kind of peace Jesus promised it would?