

GROWTH GROUPS  
**WEEK 5**  
WEEK OF OCT 18



---

## Growth Group Fall 2020

### *The Holy Spirit*

Week 5 – October 18, 2020 - John 14:15-27

**Growth groups are one of the best and easiest ways to find community at a church. In this time of Corona19 and “social distancing” please don’t meet in person, but do continue to check in with each other. If your growth group would like to meet online or if you are aware of needs that the church can help fill, please let us know at [connect@ljpres.org](mailto:connect@ljpres.org). Thank you for loving and caring for each other.**

### Setting the Context

This week we continue talking about what it looks like to become like Jesus. We know that we can never be Jesus – who was fully God and fully human – but we can seek to follow and become like him. One of the ways in which that happens is through the power of the Holy Spirit. Dale Bruner suggested that the Holy Spirit is the “shy” member of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is certainly not shy, but the Holy Spirit is probably the most difficult member of the Trinity to sort out and discuss.

Our text from John does not just address Christians as individuals, but rather speaks to the church as a whole. When Jesus says if you love me, in verse 15, it is the plural “you all,” and so this section should be understood as being spoken to the body of believers and not just one person. The Holy Spirit is not just experienced personally, but also by the community of faith.

Jesus continues with the idea of obedience. If we love Jesus, we seek to do what he did. We seek to copy his example. In order to do that, though, we need help. Thus, Jesus asks God to send another “advocate” for his followers. In one sense Jesus had been an advocate, but he would soon return to heaven and so another advocate was needed – “the Spirit of Truth,” or the Holy Spirit. The word for advocate literally means to come alongside, and Jesus is saying that the Holy Spirit would come alongside the disciples and future believers.

The promise of Jesus is that he will not leave the disciples on their own. In verse 23 Jesus reiterates his calling to obedience, but now he talks about how the Trinity will come and make their home with the disciples. This word for home is the same word that Jesus uses in John 14:2 when he talks about there being many rooms in God’s house. Jesus uses the idea of “dwelling place” to let the disciples know that they would soon become a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit.

There was a new era that was about to dawn. The earthly ministry of Jesus was coming to an end and the era of the Holy Spirit was about to begin. The Holy Spirit would help to prompt the disciples, as well as us, on how to live and also remind us of what Jesus had said. The role of the Holy Spirit is to confirm and interpret the message proclaimed and demonstrated by Jesus. The Holy Spirit continues the revelation of Jesus, not by providing new teachings, but by taking what Jesus taught to a deeper level.



# Exploring the Text

## Read John 14:15-27

*“If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”*

*<sup>22</sup> Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”*

*<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.*

*<sup>25</sup> “All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

## Questions

*If you are answering these questions alone, we would urge you to try journaling. Rather than just pondering the answers, try writing them out along with a prayer to the Lord.*

- 1) For centuries the church has talked about the Holy Spirit as the third person of the Trinity. If someone asked you to share about the Holy Spirit, what would you say?
- 2) Jesus says, “if you love me you will keep my commands”. What do you think are the commands of Jesus? Why does he connect this to loving him? Why didn’t Jesus just say “keep my commands”?
- 3) The Holy Spirit is called ‘paraclete’ in verse 16 which means ‘to come alongside’. There is not an exact English translation of this word. Paraclete has been translated...helper, counselor, advocate, comforter. How have you seen the Holy Spirit act as a helper, counselor, advocate or comforter in your own life?
- 4) In verse 18, Jesus promised “I will not leave you as orphans and I will come to you.” In verse 23, he said, “The Father and I will come and make our home with you.” What does that look like on a practical level? What does it mean that God makes His home with us?
- 5) Do you think the Holy Spirit was active before the day of Pentecost (Acts 2)? What was different after Pentecost?
- 6) How does the Holy Spirit teach and remind us of everything that Jesus has taught us (verse 26)?
- 7) In verse 27, Jesus repeats what he had said back in verse 1 about not being troubled. The disciples were troubled because Jesus had started talking about returning to God in Heaven. Jesus says he is giving them his peace. How does the Holy Spirit help to bring the peace of God? How have you seen that in your own life?
- 8) Is there something that is keeping you from saying I am here, or I am open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in my life?