

Weekly Study Guide

The week of October 30, 2016

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I Believe in The Holy Spirit

Things I'd like to remember about today's message...

Regular habits of private Bible reading strengthen our relationship with God and teach us how to follow Jesus. In addition to the thematic exercise above, you can use this guide each week to lead you through relevant sections of the Bible.

Daily Readings

MONDAY

Acts 11:1-18

TUESDAY

Acts 11:19-30

WEDNESDAY

Acts 12:1-19

THURSDAY

Acts 12:20-24

FRIDAY

Acts 12:25-13:3

SATURDAY

Acts 13:4-12

Group Discussion

CONNECT

We have been talking about the Trinity—Father/Son/Holy Spirit—in this *Ancient Roots* series. When you picture God the Father, what do you picture? What do you picture when you talk about God the Son? What do you picture when you talk about God the Holy Spirit?

LEARN AND APPLY

As we have been learning about the Ancient Roots of our faith through the Apostles' Creed, we have seen that the Creed was broken up into three sections— one on the Father, one on the Son, one on the Holy Spirit. In general, it seems that of the three parts of the Trinity, people have the most questions about the Holy Spirit.

Read John 16:12-15. Imagine you were one of the disciples hearing Jesus tell you he was about to go somewhere you couldn't follow (to the cross). How might these words comfort you?

According to Jesus in John 16: 12-15, what things will the Holy Spirit do? Pull out the action words (verbs) in this passage and list them together.

In verse 13, Jesus tells us the Holy Spirit will only speak what he hears. Who does verse 14 tell us the Holy Spirit is listening to? Who does Jesus reveal in verse 15 that this message originally comes from? How do these verses demonstrate how God is three-in-one?

From these verses it is clear that the Holy Spirit's job is to take what belongs to Jesus and help us to receive it. The Holy Spirit will always also glorify Jesus. Read John 14: 25-27. How else does the Holy Spirit lead us to Jesus?

The fruits of the Spirit are listed in Galatians 5:22-23. If the Holy Spirit's job is to direct us back to the work of Jesus on our behalf, why might these 'fruits' be the result of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives?

Romans 8:11 tells us The Holy Spirit is the Power of God that raised Jesus from the dead! Read Ephesians 2:4-10. Where do you see the Holy Spirit of God working in this passage? How do you think the Holy Spirit is working in your life?

Martin Luther was deeply impacted by this verse because he had always been told his salvation would depend on his being 'good enough' for salvation. Suddenly, he realized that the dead can't raise themselves. If we're dead in sin, we need someone else to raise us up— and this is the Holy Spirit's work— to raise us up and join us to the sinless, victorious life of Jesus Christ— which we are invited to share! Perhaps this is why, in his Small Catechism (written to help parents teach the faith to their kids) Martin writes his explanation: *"I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and kept me in true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it united with Jesus Christ, in the one true faith".*

How does the Holy Spirit use the Gospel (news about Jesus) to call people to God? (Romans 10:17)

How does the Holy Spirit enlighten (give knowledge to) us with his gifts?

How does the fact that the Holy Spirit's job is to lead us to Jesus and what he's done for us make us holy and keep us in the one true faith? If something doesn't lead us to the truth of Jesus, is it from the Holy Spirit?

Martin Luther responded to the call of the Holy Spirit, and it changed his life, and his world! How might the Holy Spirit be calling you into deeper faithfulness to Jesus?

PRAY AND APPLY

Pastor Peter Lundell once wrote that the greatest gift any Christian can have is a hunger for more of God. This week, pray that the Holy Spirit would show you more of whom Jesus is, and the riches of his love that this relationship holds for you, and the world around you!