

ELEMENTS

6
LESSON

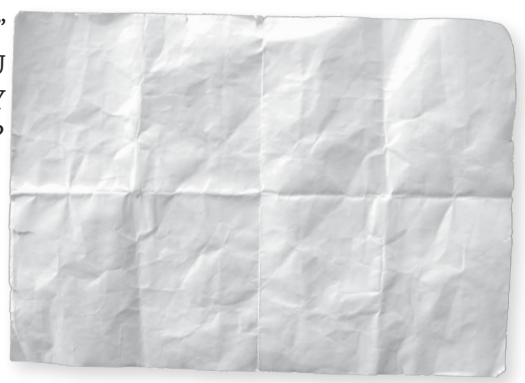
Knowing the Holy Spirit

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WHAT HE DOES IN OUR LIVES...

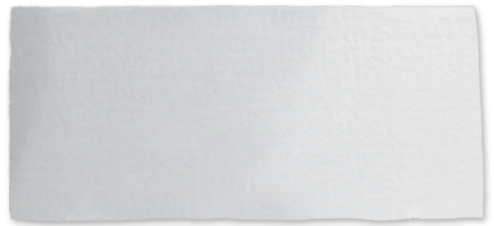


Talk about what you think...

WHEN YOU HEAR THE TERM "HOLY SPIRIT" WHAT COMES TO YOUR MIND? HAVE YOU EVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT YOU CAN REMEMBER?



IF YOU HAD SOMEONE TO HELP YOU 24 HOURS A DAY IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR THEM TO DO TO HELP YOU?



HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT HOW POWERFUL GOD IS? WHAT WOULD IT FEEL LIKE TO HAVE SOME OF HIS POWER IN YOU? HOW WOULD THAT HELP YOU IN YOUR DAILY LIFE?



Engage with the Bible... Study



JOHN 14:16-19, 25-27

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.....²⁵ "All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Counselor, 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. ²⁷ 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.

In this passage Jesus is telling his disciples about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will come when Jesus goes to be with the father. Jesus tells his disciples that the Holy Spirit will be with them forever and will take his place when he goes away.

Discovering the key themes

1

The Trinity

Jesus refers to three different persons when he speaks about God in this passage. Who are the three persons? How are they related to each other?

The 3 persons that are talked about in this passage are what we call the "Trinity." The "Trinity" means that there is one GOD who is represented or manifested by 3 persons, The Father, The Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit. The Trinity may seem incomprehensible at times but with an infinite God it is possible - you could compare it to water that exists (or manifests) in 3 forms (gas, liquid and ice) but it is still the same compound (H2O). The Holy Spirit is a person and not a "force." This means that we have a relationship with him just as we do with the Father and the Son. In fact, it's the same relationship.

2

Names of the Holy Spirit

What are some other names you see in these verses for the "Holy Spirit"? What do you think they mean?

The names of the Holy Spirit describe what he does. For example, the word Counselor used for the Holy Spirit literally means "the one who comes near and speaks to me." He is spirit and the world does not see him but he is with every Christian and in every Christian. The "Spirit of truth" is another name given to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit points out the truth to us. Other names given for the Holy Spirit are "Comforter" and "Spirit of Glory."

3

What the Holy Spirit does

Verse 17 says that the Spirit is in us. Have you felt the Holy Spirit speak to you since you started your relationship with God?

The Holy Spirit is given as a gift to live inside every Christian when they begin their relationship with God. Actually, the presence of the Spirit in us is what makes our connection with God "relational", because of his constant interaction with us. The primary reason the Spirit lives in us is to bring God's way of life (or truth) into our lives. It says he will teach us and remind us of all things. So, the Spirit is our spiritual and constant connection to God.

What are some more things the Spirit does?

Guides us and speaks to us

John 16:13-15

The leading of the Spirit shows us the "will" of God and reveals truth and wisdom to us that we would otherwise not know.

Convicts or Convinces us of Sin, righteousness and judgment

John 16:8

The Holy Spirit convinces us of:

Sin - he reveals to us the sin in our lives and that we must put our belief in the work of Jesus for salvation.

Righteousness - that he (the Holy Spirit) is now our teacher since Jesus is no longer physically present to teach us about righteousness.

Judgment - that Satan has been defeated and we should no longer fear his power and the power of sin to condemn us.

Enables us to Grow in Obedience

Gal 5:22-25

The Holy Spirit helps us to grow as Christians. He works in our lives to make us more like Jesus.

Helps us to Pray

James 5:13 - 18

When we don't know what to pray, God's spirit helps us to pray (actually He says to God what we don't know how to say).

Empowers us

Acts 1:8

The power of the Holy Spirit can transform us and give us the strength to follow Jesus daily.

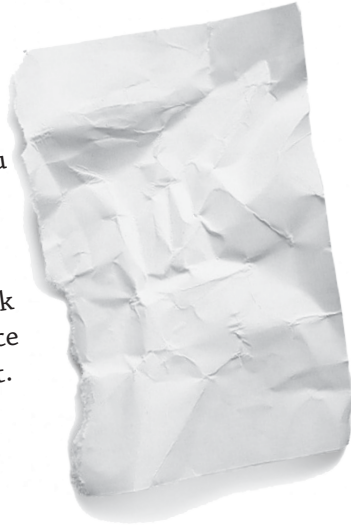
Skills ✂

Applying it, experiencing it, practicing it

CHOOSE THREE (OR ALL IF YOU LIKE) OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (ABOVE) AND THINK SPECIFICALLY ABOUT HIS WORK IN YOUR LIFE IN THESE AREAS.

1 Guidance

What is something that you are struggling to understand that you would like for the Holy Spirit to teach you? Or is there a decision that you need God's wisdom about? Write these down and ask God to give you specific guidance in them through his Holy Spirit.



2 Convicting of sin

Is there something in your life that God has already been showing you, that may not be the best according to his truth for life? Write this down and talk to your small group leader about it.



3 Growing up

Is there some area of your life that you feel is particularly sick or immature or in trouble (i.e. - relationship with parents, with the law, with your boyfriend or girlfriend, at school). Identify that area and ask God to help you begin to grow up in His truth about this area of your life.



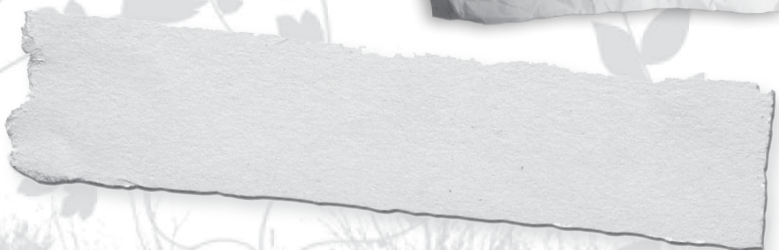
Praying 4

Is there an area in your life that you feel is totally out of control or where it seems impossible to find a solution? Write this down and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to God on your behalf concerning the solution or answer that is His will for you.



5 Power

Is there some situation, failure or constant struggle in which you feel powerless or totally weak, defeated and trapped? Mark it as a place where you want to experience the power of the Holy Spirit.



Skills Summary

The presence of the Holy Spirit in us is an amazing commitment God makes to every believer. He has actually decided to live within us. So, instead of relying on our own way of living, we can be INTERNALLY directed, taught and influenced. Instead of feeling powerless we can be empowered. This empowerment is described as being filled by the Holy Spirit.

HOW ARE WE EMPOWERED? WE HAVE THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE TO OBEY OR DISOBEY ON A DAILY BASIS. SO, EVERY DAY WE SHOULD WANT TO BE AWARE OF OUR COOPERATION WITH HIM. HERE ARE SOME SPECIFIC WAYS:

1. **Desire**

Throughout each day express your desire to obey and follow the Holy Spirit.

2. **Confess**

Acknowledge or confess to God areas of sin or untruth that the Holy Spirit shows you.

3. **Yield**

Present yourself to God: to be available to him and follow his plans. Be willing to take steps of action toward changing wrong living patterns or habits.

4. **Ask**

Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you or fill you and take control of your life. Respond with action when the Holy Spirit directs you into his plans or opportunities.

How wonderful to have our own private tutor in our lives! Let his presence in you fill you with happiness and peace as he moves you daily toward his wonderful plan for your life. You can ask God to do this through his Holy Spirit as often as you need to – it may be once a week, once a day or even more often.

Real Stories from Central and Eastern Europe



Knowing The Holy Spirit | Elisa

How does this work out in you this week?

SUMMARY VERSE AND MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK:



JOHN 14:26

But the Counselor, 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.

EXPERIENCING IT DURING THE WEEK:

Theme	Passage	Questions
1st Day – How the Holy Spirit Teaches us.	<i>John 14:26</i>	What does the Holy Spirit use to teach you? Where do you find the things that Jesus said in the past?
2nd Day – How the Holy Spirit Guides us.	<i>John 16:13-15</i>	What “truth” do you need to be guided into today? What “things to come” do you need to know, in order to make some decisions today.
3rd Day – How the Holy Spirit convicts or convinces us about sin.	<i>John 16:8-11</i>	Do you still feel guilty for your past sins? Ask the Holy Spirit to convince you that you are now truly clean and free from sin.
4th Day – How the Holy Spirit convinces us about righteousness.	<i>John 16:8-11</i>	What have you been hearing the Holy Spirit teach you about the way he wants you to live? In what ways have you been responding?
5th Day – How the Holy Spirit convinces us about judgment.	<i>John 16:8-11</i>	Do you still sense anger and judgment from God about your life? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you not listen to Satan, but to be convinced of God’s deep love and full acceptance of you
6th Day – How the Holy Spirit enables us to Grow in Obedience.	<i>Gal 5:22-25</i>	Practice paying attention to the Holy Spirit’s influence in these nine areas. Write down what area he seems to be focusing on in the present time.
7th Day – How the Holy Spirit empowers us.	<i>Eph 3:14-21</i>	Where does the Holy Spirit give you strength? What are some of the results of that strength?



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