

SMALL GROUPS

Growing in Christ

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of October 15, 2017

KEY POINTS:

The Holy Spirit is the PRESENCE of GOD in the PERSON of Jesus.
(Luke 1:35, Luke 1:15, Luke 3:21-22, Luke 4:1-2)

The Holy Spirit is the POWER of GOD in the MINISTRY of Jesus.
(Luke 3:16, Philippians 2:5-8, Hebrews 4:15, Luke 4:14)

We too can be BORN of the SPIRIT so that we can bear the PRESENCE and the POWER of CHRIST until He returns.

(John 16:7-8, John 14:15-17, John 14:19-20, Ephesians 3:16-17, Colossians 2:9-10)

1

GETTING STARTED

What do you do to get warm and comfortable as the weather gets colder?

2

LOOKING BACK

How have you seen God at work over the last week?

Looking back on Sunday, is there anything that stood out to you, confused you, or challenged you?

(See Key Texts and Big Idea above)

3

MY STORY

People at New Day come from a variety of different backgrounds. If you grew up in church, how much was the Holy Spirit talked about? If you didn't grow up in church, had you ever heard anything about the Holy Spirit?

Pastor Jass could have retired from ministry years ago, but he keeps teaching and encouraging people. What would you like to accomplish if God blesses with you with health beyond age 80?

4

DIGGING DEEPER

From New Day's Statement of Faith: The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily. (2 Corin. 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16, 17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corin. 2:12, 3:16; Eph. 1:13; Gal. 5:25)

The Holy Spirit is often mistakenly thought of as an "it"--an impersonal force--rather than a personal being with a will, relationships, insights and directed actions. Why is it important to understand the Spirit as a personal being?

You'll notice that New Day's Statement of Faith refers to the Holy Spirit as a "He." It's written that way because in Scripture, God is overwhelmingly referred to in masculine terms. However, it's not as if God is limited to traditionally masculine characteristics. Why might someone take issue with God being referred to as a "He"?

4

DIGGING DEEPER (CONTINUED)

What benefit might there be to maintaining masculine wording (He, Him, His, Son, Father) in reference to God?

For more info, check out this article: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Holy-Spirit-gender.html>.

Genesis 1:26-27 (NASB) ²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

In the beginning, we see God referring to Himself as a plural entity--"Let Us...in Our image," and yet He also clearly says He is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4). God is one, and yet He is also three unique personal beings: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. How do you deal with that apparent contradiction?

Why do you think the Holy Spirit tends to be the neglected Person in the three-in-one (triune) God?

For more info about the Trinity, check out this article: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Trinity-Bible.html>.

Ephesians 3:14-17 (NLT) ¹⁴ When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, ¹⁵ the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. ¹⁶ I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.

Here we see God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit together in Paul's prayer. What do you think it looks like to be empowered with inner strength through the Spirit?

What might get in the way of someone experiencing power through the Holy Spirit?

How can you more fully yield your life to the power of the Holy Spirit?

5

BRINGING IT HOME

We want to be a church of disciples who experience the presence and the power of the Spirit. Think about how God has gifted you through the Spirit to do His work. Think about the transformation the Spirit is accomplishing in your life. Take time this week to ask God to lead you through His Spirit, and take some quiet time to "listen" for what He brings to your mind or to your heart.

6

PRAYER REQUESTS How can we take practical steps to being an answer to these prayers?