

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – August 8, 2021

Theme: The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit **Topic:** The Holy Spirit counsels and guides us into all truth.

Main Text: John 16: 5-15

Key verse: John 16:13: “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: The Bible refers to the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of holiness (Romans 1:4); The Spirit of life (Romans 8:2); the Spirit of wisdom and revelation (Ephesians 1:16-17); the Spirit of grace (Hebrews 10:29); the Spirit of glory (1 Peter 4:14); among others. Before His death, resurrection and eventual ascension to heaven, Jesus promised to send us an Advocate, a Helper who would always be with His disciples. And in John 16:13 Jesus describes this Advocate and Helper as the Spirit of Truth. And in that capacity, that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth. Adding that this Advocate will not speak of His own authority (John 16:7-13).

1. Read John 16:12-15; 1 John 2:27. (a) What reason did Jesus give in verse 12 for withholding some truth from His disciples? (b) From John 16: 13-15, what is the source of the truth which the Holy Spirit will counsel and guide the believer into? (c) According to John 14:25-26; 16:13 What are the ways in which the Holy Spirit guides and leads us into all truth?

In John 16:13 Jesus said “... when the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth...” The key words in this statement are ‘guide’ and ‘truth.’ A ‘guide’ is a person who advises or shows the way to others. A synonym of ‘guide’ is ‘counsel.’ The other key word is ‘truth’, which refers to that which is ‘in accordance with fact or reality.’ From a Biblical standpoint, “*Truth is that which is consistent with the mind, will, character, glory, and being of God. Even more to the point: Truth is the self-expression of God.*” This tallies with Jesus’ description of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Truth; and His definition of truth in John 17:17 “*Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*” So, when Jesus used the word ‘truth’ to describe the Holy Spirit, it was the equivalent of saying, “you don’t need to worry that He will lead you astray or wrongly. You can depend on Him and you can trust Him.” Jesus wanted the disciples to be at ease and understand that they could rely on the Holy Spirit to lead them correctly. That’s perhaps the reason He added in John 14:27 “*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.*”

2. Read John 14:26; 16:12-15; 17:17; 1 Corinthians 2:9-14 (a) What truth will the Holy Spirit be guiding the believer into? (b) What limitation did Jesus give in what we would be receiving from the Holy Spirit (see. John 14:26; 16:13-15) (c) According to Genesis 6:5; Matthew 15:18-19; Mark 7:21, and 1 Corinthians 2:12,14, why do we need to rely on the Holy Spirit for God’s truth?

Left on our own, a believer will easily fall prey to his or her own imaginations and thoughts. But God’s thoughts are higher than ours. So, in Romans 12:2, God invites us to have our minds renewed to properly understand God’s will. This is true because upon salvation, we come into God’s kingdom with our sinful inclinations. So, though we automatically received the Holy Spirit upon the new birth, we do not automatically have the truth or all of it. In fact, Jesus told His disciples that “*There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now.*” (John 16:12). And the same can be said of each of us at the time of our conversion. So, this ministry of the Holy Spirit of counselling and guiding us into all truth happens progressively. Apostle Peter also encourages the believer to make every effort to add to our faith, knowledge, etc. (2 Peter 1:5). So, walking in and with the Holy Spirit is not passive but involves some conscious and consistent action. Our thoughts are evil until renewed by the Holy Spirit using the word of God (John 17:17).

3. Read Joshua 1:8; Matthew 7:8; Mark 4:24. (a) How do these passages relate with John 14:26 and John 16:13-14? (b) What role does the believer have in being counselled and guided by the Holy Spirit? (c) What guidelines do John 16:12-15 provide for us for how to filter any words or teaching purportedly emanating from the Holy Spirit?

Prayer: “Show me Your ways, Lord, teach me Your paths. Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long.” Psalm 25:4-5.