

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – March 17, 2024

Theme: The Foundation of the Christian Faith **Topic:** The Role of the Holy Spirit

Main Text: John 14:12-26

Key verse: John 14:26 *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I have said to you”*

INTRODUCTION: In the Nicene Creed, we, as Christians, declare that “we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son” and that, “with the Father and the Son, He is worshipped and glorified”. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. We see Him in Genesis in the creation account, guiding Israel through the wilderness, filling the Tabernacle in Exodus, and present in the lives of his servants throughout the Old Testament. We learn from Peter that the Holy Spirit is the author of the Bible (2Peter 1:20-21). In the New Testament, we see a much greater presence of the Holy Spirit beginning with the life of Mary, John, and the baptism of Jesus right through to the outpouring at Pentecost and the book of Acts. Our main text captures some of our Lord’s last words to His disciples before the crucifixion. Judas had left to betray Jesus (John 13:30) and Jesus was preparing His faithful ones for the challenges ahead of them.

1. **Read John 14:12- 14; (a) What do you think that Jesus meant by “greater works” (b) What things do you think He meant us to ask for? (c) What does it mean to ask in Jesus’ name?**

Jesus described the Holy Spirit as “another Helper” (NKJV) or “Comforter” (KJV). The sense carried by the original Greek word is “one who stands alongside”, an encourager or advocate. Jesus was telling the disciples that He was going away which made them fearful and confused. However, He would not leave them “comfortless” or “orphans”. In fact, it was good for them that He “went away” because if He did not, the Holy Spirit would not come (John 15:7).

2. **(a) Read John 14:15-21 and Acts 2:38 What is a pre-requisite for the Holy Spirit to dwell in a person (b) Read John 15:5-15 Discuss some of the things this passage says the Holy Spirit will do for believers and “ the world” or unbelievers. (c) Read Acts 1:7-8 and compare v 8 with what you discussed in (b). How are the two connected?**

The Holy Spirit plays the lead role in every aspect of our salvation. He first draws us to Christ, convicting us of sin and leading us to repentance. Once we repent, He indwells us and seals us as a pledge of our redemption. Through Him, the Father and Jesus live in us. He sanctifies us, opens the Word to us so that our minds may be renewed by its washing, uncovers sin in our lives for us to confess and forsake, brings healing to our emotions, and helps us manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our character and conduct. He also reveals our gift so that we can be effective and do the good works that God created us to do. None of this is automatic – it requires our active co-operation by way of hearing, loving obedience and trust. He dwells in us, and we must abide in Him, spending time in fellowship with Him, studying, meditating, praying, and then doing what He tells us.

3. **(a) Read John 14:22-26 What do these verses tell us about relating to Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit? (b) Read John 15:4-8 and Ephesians 5:17- 18 What do the phrases “Abide in me” and “be filled with the [Holy] Spirit” mean? How can we obey these commands in our day-to-day living?**

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for uniting us to Christ by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for coming to dwell in us and making your home in our hearts. Help us to listen attentively to the Holy Spirit, to keep in step with and be filled with the Holy Spirit so that we each may abide in you and bear much fruit for your kingdom and your glory. Amen