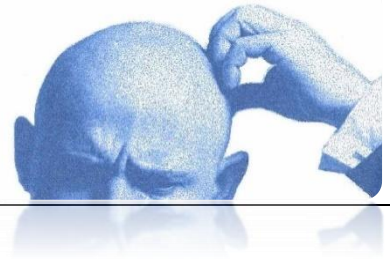


The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Small Group Questions



*The following questions are intended to start conversations.
Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.*

Our preaching series during the season of Epiphany will pick up stories in John 12-15 (Light in Dark Places). Questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories BEFORE you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming sermon.

- If you were to describe the Holy Spirit in a few sentences, what would you say?
- Read **John 14:15-32**. What stands out for you in this text?
- What is the connection between loving Jesus and obedience? How do Jesus' words in **Luke 6:46-49** (ideally, in the Message) shed light on this connection?
- In his essay "On Liberty," John Stuart Mill tried to explain why words lose their meaning and causally offered that the best example of this phenomenon was Christians. "The sayings of Christ co-exist passively in their minds, producing hardly any effect beyond what is caused by mere listening to words so amiable and bland." Do you agree with Mill? Why?
- In verse 16, Jesus promises to send "another advocate" to help us. The Greek word used here (*paraklētos*) can also be translated as helper, comforter or counsellor. What does this tell us about the Holy Spirit.
- Where will the Holy Spirit reside? What does that mean?
- Re-read **John 14:25-27**. What else will the Holy Spirit do? How does this play out in your life at work, at home, or at school? Be specific.
- What do Jesus mean when he says that "the prince of this world is coming"?
- What is the promise in **John 14:27**? Given the narrative context (see John 13-14), what does Jesus mean?