

This midweek study will explore the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian.

Essential Doctrine: Work of the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Christian

The Spirit's work in the life of a Christian begins in the work of salvation in bringing a person to faith in Christ, and is continued through the work of sanctification in helping the Christian to become progressively more like Christ throughout the course of his or her life. He also empowers and indwells believers, intercedes on their behalf, and equips them with special gifts for the service of God's Kingdom. He is the Comforter to the believer and aids us in properly interpreting the Bible.

1 He enables the Christian (Ezek.36:27; Phil. 2:12-13).

- ▶ *Would you consider the Christian life difficult? Why or why not?*
- ▶ *Where do we get the strength to do what God calls believers to do?*

Read Ezekiel 36:27.

- ▶ *What promises were stated in this verse? What does God's Spirit (the Holy Spirit) do?*
- ▶ *Does this promise of the Spirit's work give you hope? Why or why not?*

Read Philippians 2:12-13.

- ▶ *Why does Paul want us to work our salvation with fear and trembling? (Note: You may need to clarify to the students what "working out our salvation" is. Paul doesn't mean we do anything more to get saved; rather, we live out who we truly are in Jesus.*
- ▶ *What unbelievably awesome and magnificent truth is in the second verse? Specifically, which person of the Trinity works in us?*
- ▶ *According to verse 12, who does the work? According to verse 13, who does the work? So when we will to do something holy, who is truly working in us?*

2 He comes alongside the Christian (John 14:16-17).

Read John 14:16-17.

- ▶ *According to this text, what would the Holy Spirit's job title be? How do you react to this title?*
- ▶ *The original Greek word for Helper or Comforter is Paraklete, or one who is called alongside. In what ways might the Holy Spirit be called alongside us?*
- ▶ *What might it look like for the Holy Spirit to be called alongside us when we are distraught? Depressed? Rejoicing? Weary? Excited? Enthralled? Grateful?*
- ▶ *According to John 14:16, for how long does this Helper stay with us?*

3 The Holy Spirit's primary role is to glorify Jesus (John 16:7,14-15).

Let's do a scavenger hunt. If you have a Bible app or a computer, search for "Holy Spirit" and see what you can find. If you don't have an app, do some flipping through the Bible on your own. Find the different things the Holy Spirit does to us and for us. Share the list. What did you find?

- ▶ *What common themes do you hear concerning the Holy Spirit's role in our lives?*

Read John 16:7.

- ▶ *Does anyone see anything surprising in the passage? How could it be to our advantage for Jesus to go away? What does this passage indicate to us about how blessed we are to have the Holy Spirit?*
- ▶ *Seeing all the wonderful things the Holy Spirit does, do we see how it was to our advantage Jesus went away so He could send the Holy Spirit?*

Read John 16:14-15.

- ▶ *We learned the Holy Spirit's main title is Helper. Now we see His main objective. What is it?*
- ▶ *Look at the list of things the Holy Spirit does. How do these things help us glorify Jesus?*

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ *Which superhero do you think is most like the Holy Spirit? Why?*
- ▶ *How can we glorify Jesus through loving others and acting in faith this week while consciously relying on God the Holy Spirit within and beside us?*