



SMALL GROUP GUIDE: PERSECUTION AND THE CHRISTIAN WALK

Small Group Guide: The Holy Spirit - Our Helper and Guide

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit as a helper and guide for believers.
2. The Holy Spirit reveals our need for Jesus and convicts us of sin.
3. The Spirit guides believers with the heart of God and leads us into truth.
4. We have a responsibility to follow the Spirit's guidance closely.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was your initial understanding of the Holy Spirit before this sermon? How has it changed or expanded?
2. Jesus said it was better for Him to go away so the Holy Spirit could come. Why do you think this is significant?
3. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit revealing your need for Jesus in your own life?
4. Discuss a time when you felt the Holy Spirit guiding you. How did you respond?
5. The sermon mentioned that we often trust our feelings or reasoning more than the Spirit. Why do you think this is, and how can we learn to trust the Spirit more?

6. How does the idea of the Holy Spirit as a guide rather than a controller change your perspective on your relationship with God?
7. What are some practical ways we can "tune our ear" to hear the Holy Spirit's voice more clearly in our daily lives?

Practical Applications:

1. Daily Listening Exercise: Set aside 5-10 minutes each day this week to be still and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you. Journal any impressions or thoughts you receive.
2. Obedience Challenge: When you feel a prompting from the Holy Spirit this week (no matter how small), commit to following through with obedience. Share your experience with the group next time.
3. Scripture Meditation: Choose a passage about the Holy Spirit (e.g., John 14:15-17, Romans 8:26-27, Galatians 5:16-25) to meditate on throughout the week. Reflect on how it applies to your life.
4. Prayer Partners: Pair up with someone in the group and commit to praying for each other daily, specifically asking for increased sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's guidance.
5. Forgiveness Action: If the Holy Spirit is prompting you to forgive someone, take a step towards reconciliation this week (e.g., writing a letter, making a phone call, or having a conversation).
6. Technology Fast: Consider a short fast from a specific technology (e.g., social media, TV) to create more space to hear the Holy Spirit's voice.

Closing Prayer:

"Holy Spirit, we thank you for your presence in our lives. Help us to be more aware of your guidance and give us the courage to follow your lead. Teach us to trust you more than our own understanding. We invite you to work in our hearts and minds, transforming us to be more like Jesus. Amen."