

Mystery

What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

NOTE TO SMALL GROUP LEADERS: Give people an opportunity, if they feel convicted, to confess privately to you or another member at some point during group. Don't force it but make it available to them. And remember, as believers, we have the God-given ability to offer them forgiveness for their sins.

The Salvation Process

1. He convicts us about our need for forgiveness.

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see Me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. John 16:7-11 ESV

DISCUSSION: What are some things that you repented of whether you went forward or not? (Since many of the issues were sexual in nature you may want to have guys and girls split up to talk about it, especially for people who are single. We would encourage married couples to talk about things in front of their spouses) Why did or didn't you go forward? What was going through your mind?

DISCUSSION: When you are about to do something wrong and pause for a moment to realize it, do you recognize it as the Holy Spirit talking to you or do you merely weigh the options and consequences? Why do you sometimes have trouble listening to the Holy Spirit in those moments?

2. He convinces us that Jesus is God.

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:3 ESV

DISCUSSION: What happens in your heart when you doubt; does the Holy Spirit come and remind you that He is God? Or do you spend time doubting? What is the cause of it of your doubts?

3. He takes up residence in the body of the believer.

*And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
Acts 2:38 ESV*

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own... 1 Corinthians 6:19 ESV

DISCUSSION: Do you REALLY believe that the Holy Spirit lives inside of you? Is it easy or difficult for you to believe? If you believed it more strongly and acted upon that truth, how would that change your life?

4. He preserves the Christian for the day of salvation.

*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
Ephesians 4:30 ESV*

DISCUSSION: Do you ever wonder if you have what it takes to stay committed to Christ for the rest of your life? Do you sometimes feel like you have to do it on your own? What's driving that feeling of autonomy? How comforting is it to know that it is the Holy Spirit's job to keep you on track the rest of your life?

5. He makes us perfect in the eyes of God.

*I am a special messenger from Christ Jesus to you Gentiles. I bring you the Good News so that I might present you as an acceptable offering to God, made holy by the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:16 NLT*

DISCUSSION: How did you feel when you looked at your sin just prior to confession? How does it feel to know that as a believer you have been forgiven and thus are no longer under condemnation?

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God the Father sees us for what we will become, and treats us accordingly.

PRAYER PROJECT: Spend 5-7 minutes asking the Holy Spirit to show you how He has changed you as a result of His presence in your life. Let Him take you through the bad and the good and see the process of Him changing you into a more perfect human. Thank Him for His work in your life and ask Him to continue the process.