

Frisco First Baptist Church

THE TRINITY: FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT

TRINITY: HOLY SPIRIT

JOHN 14:15-26

4/19/2026

MAIN POINT

We are to find our identity in Jesus and live in the power of the Holy Spirit.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Share about a time when you felt inadequate or ill equipped for a task.

Why do we sometimes feel inadequate to serve the Lord?

How can we overcome such feelings of inadequacy?

The Holy Spirit, like Jesus, is co-equal and co-eternal with God and yet, distinct from the other two persons of the Trinity in His work. Though we often feel inadequate to be used by God for His kingdom, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to indwell believers for the express purpose of empowering us to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8). Today we will see how, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we can find confidence to be used by God for His kingdom and glory.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 14:15-17.

What comes to mind when you think of the Holy Spirit?

Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do (c.f. John 14:26, 15:26, and 16:10)?

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity that indwells followers of Jesus and is the presence and power of God in their lives. The Holy Spirit helps us understand Jesus and remember His teaching (John 14:26). The Spirit bears witness to Jesus (John 15:26) and will convict the world of sin, righteousness and God's judgment (John 16:10).

Why must we not think of the Holy Spirit as a power or a force?

When Jesus told the disciples that He would send "another," He used the word that meant another of the same kind. The counselor

will be like Jesus Himself. In what ways is the Holy Spirit like Jesus?

How is the Holy Spirit our “helper” (v. 16)? In what ways does the spirit help us in our walk with Christ?

The Greek word for “helper” in verse 16 is “Paracletos,” and it is used to describe an advocate or a counselor (c.f. John 14:25, 15:25, and 16:7). The original thrust of the word contains the meaning of “working on someone’s behalf” or “coming alongside someone.” The Counselor picked up where Jesus left off after His ascension. While Jesus physically walked the earth for a very short time, the “another” Counselor will be with us forever. He will remain our Advocate for eternity.

The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force or power, but a person. The Holy Spirit is eternally God sent from the Father, by the Son to indwell believers as their counselor, guide, and friend.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 16:4-11.

Why did Jesus want His disciples to know why He was leaving?

How do you think they felt knowing their teacher and guide was leaving them? How would they function without their guide?

Jesus wanted the disciples to be prepared for His departure. He knew that His time was growing short, but the disciples did not understand that Jesus would die or depart from them. They did not ask where Jesus was going because they were afraid. Jesus was talking about persecution that would come upon them; they were scared for the future and did not want to lose their teacher. Without a guide, the disciples would have been lost. They needed direction.

How have you experienced the Holy Spirit convicting you of sin?

How might knowing we have the Holy Spirit give us confidence as we face temptation?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 14:18-26.

How does verse 18 speak to our identity as God’s children?

What does it tell us about how we should view God?

Jesus sending the Holy Spirit is confirmation of our identity as God’s children. Whereas, orphans have no parents, children identify with their parents in a number of ways. On a most basic level, children take their parents’ name. As children of God, we have the Holy Spirit and are called to identify ourselves solely with God. On a more personal level, we know that God never abandons us. We know that we will face some very tough times in this life, but we also know that we never have to face them alone.

What words or phrases from verses 19-21 offer confidence to children of God?

As children of God, we have not only a relationship with God but also a responsibility to Him. What responsibility does Jesus mention specifically in verse 21?

Obedience to Jesus is evidence of love for Him and relationship with Him. The word “if” in verse 15 suggests reality, not a conditional relationship between love for Jesus and keeping His commandments. Jesus did not link works of obedience and salvation. Rather, He emphasized keeping His commandments as the natural outgrowth of love for Him. The one who knows Jesus’ commands and keeps them confirms his or her love relationship with Jesus. Those who love Jesus enjoy the reciprocal love of Jesus’ Father. Jesus loves and reveals Himself to the one who loves and obeys the Father. In a relationship with Jesus, obedience validates professions of love.

Why is it important that we ask the Spirit for wisdom and guidance as we study God’s Word (v. 26)?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

How might reminding yourself that the same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, change the way you approach your walk with Christ?

How might relying on the Spirit’s power help you overcome feelings of inadequacy? What is one area of your life in which you need to rely on the power of the Spirit to help you glorify God?

What is a sin issue you have been struggling with lately? What are some practical steps you might take this week to put that sin to death?

PRAYER

Pray that we would learn humility from the example of Jesus. Pray that we would draw strength to overcome temptation from Jesus’ victory over it. Thank God for making Jesus our representative, our savior, and our source of strength in the battle against sin.

COMMENTARY

JOHN 14:15-26

14:15–18. How do people know that they are Christians? How do you and I gain confidence that we are born again by the regenerating power of God’s Holy Spirit? The world cannot know because the world cannot accept the Holy Spirit. But the disciples were told that the Holy Spirit lives with you and will be in you. Pentecost was still in

their future, so at the present time the Holy Spirit was constantly with them. But after Pentecost, he would actually be in them and in every other believer since that day. Consequently, they were identifiable (as we are) as God's children, not orphans.

What did Jesus mean by the promise at the end of verse 18: I will come to you? Some interpreters suggest this refers to the resurrection, while others see another promise of the second coming. But in the context of these verses, it surely means the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Jesus lives in us through the person and power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit lives in us to identify his children. The doctrine of the indwelling Holy Spirit does not rest completely on this passage, but verse 17 is of great significance.

First, the spirit was dwelling "with" the apostles in the Gospel era. In Greek the words "with you" literally mean "beside you." In that sense, the Holy Spirit had a companion ministry to the apostles. He was beside them, but not inside them.

Second, Christ predicted that the Spirit would be in them. After the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ, the same Spirit who was beside them would be inside them. Christ also changed verbal tenses to show the difference in the two relationships of the Spirit to the apostles, from present to future.

Not only that, but this indwelling will be endless—the new Counselor will be with you forever. No orphans in the family of God, no abandoned people with no place to turn. The Holy Spirit will be a constant presence of Jesus with all believers.

14:19–21. How well we remember the song that states, "Because he lives, I can face tomorrow; because he lives, all fears are gone." Perhaps the idea for the lyrics had its birth in John 14:19. When did the disciples (later called the apostles) realize that Jesus was in the Father and that they dwelt in Him? Did they have to wait for the second coming for that? Of course not. The reference to that day must refer to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. That frightened, hesitant group of believers huddled in an upper room knew the power of the Holy Spirit broke forth upon them because it literally blasted them around the city, around the country and around their world.

Notice again the emphasis on behavior. A person does not show that the Holy Spirit lives in him by bizarre behavior or belief, but by knowing and obeying the commands of the Lord Jesus. How desperately we need balance in the church. Making too much of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit leads to mysticism; making too little of him leads to legalism. Only the balance can lead to unity. How like sinful human beings to divide the church over the Holy Spirit, sent by God to unite us.

As we might expect, interpreters have debated the meaning of the words on that day, although the context seems to point to the resurrection.

14:22–24. The Holy Spirit lives actively in us all the time; we do not need to pray for him to come to a certain meeting, or a certain occasion, or at a certain time. He is not some kind of theological or spiritual helicopter looking for a place to land.

The disciples always wanted to know why Jesus treated them differently than he did the world, and we find that question again in verse 22. But the answer is always the same. Jesus reveals himself to people he knows will respond to him and obey his teaching. The key word of these three verses is obey or perhaps even the phrase obey my teaching. Again, the Lord linked himself with the Father and indicated that the Father and the Son through the Spirit take up residence in the lives of believers.

Judas is also mentioned in Luke 6 and Acts 1 but only here does he speak. Likely he is the same person as the Thaddaeus of Matthew 10:3 and Mark 3:18. His interruption, like those of Thomas and Philip, reminds us not only that the disciples were confused about all this doctrine, but also that they felt comfortable enough in the presence of the Lord to interrupt him with questions. But what is the answer to his question? Quite simply, love. The obedient children of the Father receive the Holy Spirit who will manifest (show) Jesus to them, although his true nature will still be hidden from the world.

14:25-26. The Holy Spirit reminds us of truth that Jesus taught. In the case of the disciples, it was an immediate application to their spiritual memories. In our case, it is assistance in understanding and applying the Word of God. In their lives and ours, constant awareness of the Spirit's presence is a daily practicality.