

## Staying Connected: The Promised Holy Spirit is with us!

### John 16:7-15

If possible, prior to the study, join the live stream (Tallowood.org) and prepare yourself for the worship hour. Read John 16:7-15 ahead of time and join in the service wholeheartedly as if you were sitting on the front row of the worship center, 6' from anyone else. Ask God to speak to you and those who are watching. God has a life transforming, powerful word for us today.

As you prepare to begin this study, connect with others and ask them to join you. Ask everyone in your home to join you in the family space. If you are alone, connect with family and friends by phone, Facetime, Skype, Zoom or other creative methods. Zoom is a great way to connect with your small group, Connect Group, D Group or family members who live somewhere else.

<p><b>Relate</b> Use this question to begin conversation around the theme of the passage.</p>	<p><b>Has anyone told you something was going to happen, and you thought it was outrageous? (Give whoever is joining with you time to respond.)</b></p> <p><b>Here are a few possible responses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “The NCAA tournament will be cancelled this year.”</li> <li>• “All restaurants in Texas will be closed to take out only.”</li> <li>• “Your Spring Break will be at least 3 weeks longer this year.”</li> <li>• “Tallowood will only live stream its worship service for the next few weeks.”</li> <li>• “Your grandchildren will use the last of the toilet paper, you purchased last week, in March 2042.” (Well, maybe not.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Theme of Passage</b></p>	<p>Before Jesus death, burial and resurrection, He made a promise to his disciples that He kept and is still keeping that promise for us today.</p>
<p><b>Content for this Passage</b></p> <p>Have someone read John 16:7</p> <p>Holy Spirit: “Helper”, “Comforter”, “Advocate”</p> <p>Advocate: “One who comes forward in behalf of and as representative of another.” Key Word Study Bible p. 1864</p> <p>Read vs. 8-11</p> <p>If you have time, watch the <b>Bible Project</b> video on the Holy Spirit (4:10) <a href="http://Bibleproject.com/explore/holy-spirit">Bibleproject.com/explore/holy-spirit</a></p>	<p>No doubt the promise Jesus was making to His disciples seemed outrageous at the time. He told His disciples that He must leave them so that something else would happen.</p> <p>Discuss: Has someone ever told you it would be in your best interest if they left? (Take time to think and respond)</p> <p>Here are a few thoughts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A son or daughter heading to boot camp to serve our country and preserve our freedom.</li> <li>• A parent heading to work each day to provide for the family.</li> <li>• Social distancing because of the threat of a virus.</li> </ul> <p>What did Jesus say was about to happen? He must fulfill His purpose by departing (death, resurrection and ascension) so that the Holy Spirit could come to earth and live in those who believe in Him. What is the Holy Spirit that He said would come?</p> <p>The Holy Spirit is described as an advocate.</p> <p>Discuss: Has anyone ever been your advocate? Who and how? (Take time to discuss.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mom defending her child.</li> <li>• Lawyer pleading your case.</li> <li>• Best friend standing up for you.</li> </ul> <p>The disciples were uncertain about the Holy Spirit. They were, at the time, preoccupied with grief because of what Jesus was saying about His departure. But He told them they would remember later what He was saying about the “Helper”, or Holy Spirit.</p>

<p>Interactive: Option 1: If you are close to a window and can look outside, can you see the wind? Is it blowing leaves on the trees? John 3:8 describes the Holy Spirit as like the wind.</p> <p>Option 2: Go fly a kite. Make a homemade kite and head to a park. As you fly the kite, talk about what the Holy Spirit does in our lives every day.</p> <p>Read vs. 12-15</p> <p>Google "10 Roles of the Holy Spirit in a Christian" by Penny Noyes for further discussion.</p> <p>Matthew Henrys Commentary</p> <p>See Acts 2 for the fulfillment of what Jesus is saying here.</p> <p>For further study of the Holy Spirit read Romans 8 and Galatians 5.</p> <p>Personal Reflection</p>	<p>What three things did Jesus say the Holy Spirit would do when He came?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prove the world wrong about sin.</li> <li>• Prove the world wrong about righteousness.</li> <li>• Prove the world wrong about judgment.</li> </ul> <p>What does this mean? Jesus is talking about the world of sin and our need for a savior. He will declare the righteousness of Christ and His completed work on the cross, making it possible for us to become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:17-21) His coming will declare that because of Jesus, Satan has been defeated and subdued. We as believers will no longer be condemned on the day of judgment, and though we cannot see the Holy Spirit, He is working to guide us, show us truth and bring glory to God just as Jesus said.</p> <p>What did Jesus say the Holy Spirit would do when He came? Discuss the words, Guide, Truth, future revelation and Glorify. Jesus made a promise to leave us with a guide, comforter, and advocate and He kept His promise. Therefore, today, and every day, let us be overwhelmed with gratitude to God for our salvation and the gift of His Holy Spirit who lives in us. We were dead in our sins but have been given life in Christ. (Ephesians 2:1-10) And with our great salvation comes the Spirit of God to guide us in all Truth. Penny Noyes puts it this way. "Through the Holy Spirit, believers are saved, filled, sealed, and sanctified. The Holy Spirit reveals God's thoughts, teaches, and guides believers into all truth, including knowledge of what is to come. The Holy Spirit also helps Christians in their weakness and intercedes for them."</p> <p>Now, look for the open doors to be Christ's ambassadors this week. We have life in Christ. Our neighbors need life in Christ. It is the world's greatest need for today...and eternity.</p> <p>Have you received the Holy Spirit in your life? He comes into our lives the moment we place our trust in Jesus. (John 3:16; Acts 2:38) If you, or anyone you are with, would like to talk more about a relationship with Jesus, please contact us at <a href="mailto:tallowood@tallowood.org">tallowood@tallowood.org</a> or contact any one of our ministers.</p>
<p><b>Conclusion and Application</b></p> <p><b>The Close Connection Challenge (CCC)</b></p>	<p>The word of God is filled with hundreds of promises and they are all "yes" (fulfilled) in Christ. (2 Corinthians 1:20) The promise of the Holy Spirit happened exactly as Jesus foretold. The Holy Spirit did come and He is doing what He said He would do today all over the world. Is He doing all that He does in and through you?</p> <p>Here is the <b>CCC</b> for you and your family this week.</p> <p>Realize the Holy Spirit is near you, around you and most importantly in you, if you are in Christ. Today's study could not be timelier for us as we sail these uncertain and uncharted waters. <b>If there was ever a time we needed the presence of God in our lives, it is today!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start a personal journal and write your honest prayers to God each day. Write down what is happening—the fears, challenges and God moments along the way.</li> <li>• Ask God to bring people to mind that you need to connect with within the mandated guidelines. Call, text, Facetime, Facebook live, Zoom, Group Me and other creative ways.</li> <li>• Grandparents: Facetime your grandkids and read them a story, or tell them a story from your childhood, where God took care of you and your family.</li> <li>• Children: Draw a picture of yourself and have your parents take your picture with what you have drawn and text it to your grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Neighbors: Street Talk from your driveways. Text them and have them meet you outside to ask how they are doing and if they have any prayer concerns.</li></ul>
<b>Pray</b>	<p><i>Heavenly Father, Lord Jesus Christ, present Holy Spirit, thank you for your powerful presence with us today. Thank you for every promise you have given us in Your word. Lead us today as we listen to Your voice. Show us the way we should go, for to you we lift up our lives. Thank you for the fruit that comes from your Spirit that is living in us and allow us to manifest each one this week. Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control. In the Name of Jesus we pray. Amen.</i></p>