



## LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 21st January 2024



### Hearts on Fire: Jesus and the Holy Spirit John 14:15-27

#### Warm Up

Have you ever been involved in a pregnancy? Was there a time when you called the foetus “it” or was it always “he” or “she”? When did the unborn child become a person?

#### Background and context

The role of the Holy Spirit is to help us experience the reality of Christ’s achievements in His death and resurrection.

Jesus is celebrating the Passover with His disciples. He is teaching them many things and preparing them for His departure. He promises to never leave them but will send the Holy Spirit not only to live within them but to teach them all things, remind them of Jesus and give them the peace of God.



#### Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

**READ: John 14:15-27.** What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.

1. What evidence is there that the Holy Spirit is a person and not just a force or energy?
2. How can we be sure that the Holy Spirit IS the 3rd person of the Trinity?
3. Why is it limiting to think of the Holy Spirit as a “power” and not a person?
4. **Read v16.** The phrase “another counsellor” (advocate) is important. *Another* implies there is a first counsellor. Who is that and what is His role?  
Imagine a heavenly courtroom. Humanity is on trial. Who accuses or prosecutes?  
Who is humanity's advocate? What is His winning argument?  
NB: counsellor/advocate = legal counsel, like a lawyer.
5. The word *another* in the Greek, means *identical*. Why do we need two?
6. **READ v26-27** If the role of the Holy Spirit is to make real to us the achievement of Christ on the cross, how does He do this?



#### Growing in discipleship: Practical application

7. When Satan accuses you of being a failure or a hypocrite (a daily occurrence for many), how does the Holy Spirit advocate on your behalf?
8. How does the Holy Spirit make us more reliant on Christ?



#### Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.