

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Break the Ice!

When you hear about the Holy Spirit, what comes to mind first?

- ☐ Comfort
- ☐ Power
- ☐ Conviction
- ☐ Confusion
- ☐ Something else: _____

Have you ever had a moment when you suddenly realized you were wrong about something important? What happened?

Talk it Over!

Read **John 16:4-15** together as a group. In one or two sentences, how would you summarize what Jesus is teaching here?

The Spirit is not a force — He is a person

Why do you think people sometimes think of the Holy Spirit more like a "force" than a person?

Jesus says it is **"to your advantage"** that He goes away. What feels surprising about that statement?

How does the coming of the Holy Spirit make life *better* for believers than if Jesus had stayed physically on earth?

The Ministry of Conviction

Jesus says the Spirit convicts the world of **sin, righteousness, and judgment.**

Which of those three is hardest for people to accept today?

- ☐ Sin
- ☐ Righteousness
- ☐ Judgment
- ☐ All three
- ☐ Not sure

Why do you think that is?

Conviction of Sin

Jesus says the Spirit convicts people of sin **“because they do not believe in me.”**

Why is unbelief such a serious sin?

What are some ways we tend to blame circumstances or other people instead of dealing with our own sin?

How can conviction of sin actually be a good thing rather than something to fear?

Conviction of Righteousness

The sermon compared our righteousness to **Monopoly money** — something that looks real but has no value before God.

What are some things people rely on to feel “good enough” before God?

- ☐ Being a good person
- ☐ Being religious
- ☐ Comparing ourselves to others
- ☐ Success or reputation
- ☐ Something else: _____

Why is it hard to admit that our own righteousness is not enough?

Conviction of Judgment

How does the cross show that evil and Satan have already been judged?

How does knowing that God will judge the world one day actually give hope rather than fear?

The Spirit Leads Us to Christ

The sermon said: “Every conviction of the Spirit is an invitation to run back to Jesus.”

How have you seen that to be true in your own life?

What is one area where you sense the Spirit pressing on your life right now?

Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently this week because of this sermon: