

Small Group Discussion Guide

“The Christmas Spirit” (pt. 2) – 12/14/2014

Scripture: John 15:26-27

Bottom Line: The Holy Spirit helps us by pointing us to Jesus.

INTRODUCTION: How would you describe how you typically feel during the Christian season? Do you feel rushed or overwhelmed? What about guilty and sad? Or perhaps you are one of those people that goes through the Christmas season with a genuine smile and complete happiness? Most of us know what Christmas is about yet we really don't experience Christ to the fullest during Christmas. Thankfully God the Holy Spirit dwells in believers. He is constantly there to refocus us and reshape our faulty views about life.

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read John 15:26-27

Background: Jesus is talking to his followers about the world pressing in against us. We all know that feeling. When the heat of life turns up, it is easy to respond poorly.

Jesus calls the Holy Spirit our helper. What does this reveal about God and yourself?

- I need help! As Christians, we are to constantly confess our need for God's help in life.
- God knows my need and he cares! God is aware that what we need is him, not just any kind of help. So he dwells in us constantly to guide us on life's right path.

So I need help, but how does the Holy Spirit actually work in me to produce change?

- The Holy Spirit points you constantly back to Jesus. The Holy Spirit's mission is to conform you to the image of Jesus. The way he does this is to constantly remind how Jesus forgave your sins, gave you eternal life, and consistently gave you the example of the life you should strive to live. It is the Holy Spirit who empowers us to live this life.

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

How does the Holy Spirit help us with our (Fill in the blank)? Example: anger

- He convicts us of our sin. This is not the same as condemnation. He wants to bless us.
- We confess or acknowledge it as sin to God, and then repent or turn from it.
- He shows us the promises of Christ & gives us instruction on our struggle from Scripture.
 - This is why it is important to read Scripture.
- We respond by embracing the gift of Christ's forgiveness & the Holy Spirit's empowerment; then we seek to act in such a way that would bring honor to Jesus.