

Apply

Right now (Come and see):

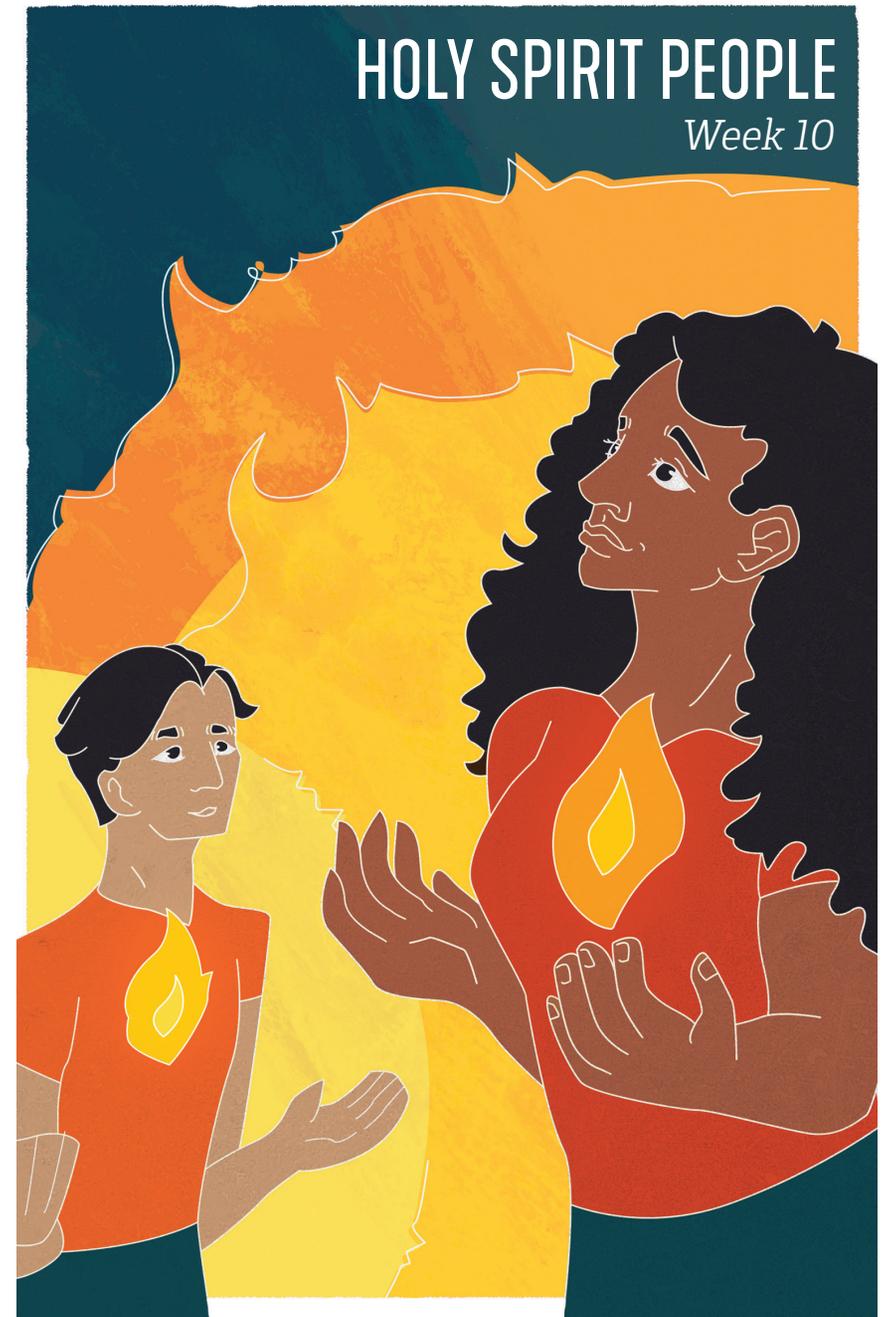
Jesus promised that he would send the Holy Spirit as an advocate to help us and be with us forever. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would empower us to do the things that Jesus did. And Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would lead us in all truth, reminding us of the teachings of Jesus, and that the Spirit would take the things that belong to God and reveal them to us. Just as the Father revealed to Jesus all that he was doing in the world, the Spirit plays this same role in our lives: God has given all things to Jesus, Jesus sends the Spirit to make them known to us.

Do you want more of the Holy Spirit in your life? We see in John 3:34 that God "gives the Spirit without measure"! In Luke 11:13, Jesus asked, "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" All we have to do is ask! Does anyone feel hungry for more of the Spirit's presence in your life? If so, let's take some time to pray for one another to be filled with more of the Holy Spirit.

This week (Go and do):

Learning to recognize how the Holy Spirit is working in your life, speaking to you and leading you, is something that takes practice. One tool to help us develop this skill is a version of a tool called The Examen. It's basically a simple daily rhythm of reflection to cultivate awareness of God's work in your life. Each night when you go to bed, take a few minutes to reflect back on your day asking these questions:

- How did I recognize the Holy Spirit's presence with me today? Were there any moments when I sensed the Holy Spirit speaking to me or inviting me to do something?
- Where did I miss out on an opportunity to partner with the Holy Spirit? Were there any moments when I chose to not respond to what the Holy Spirit was saying? Were there moments when I let the noise of life drown out the Spirit's voice?
- After reflecting, take a moment to thank God for his presence with you today. Release the missed opportunities, yield yourself to God, and invite the Holy Spirit to meet you in fresh ways tomorrow.



John 14:12-17, 25-26 (NIV)

¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

¹⁵ "If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

²⁵ "All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 16:7-15

⁷ But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

¹² "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

Intro

In our final study in the Following Jesus series, we'll be looking once more at Jesus' last night with his followers. We've seen how Jesus taught his followers to love one another, and we've seen that Jesus invited his followers to "remain in him" like a branch connected to a vine. When Jesus told his followers that he was leaving to go to the Father, they were heartbroken. It was at that moment that Jesus revealed his ultimate end-game: not just to come to earth and spend a few years with his followers, but to send his very Spirit to actually live in his followers forever.

Discuss

1. Throughout our Following Jesus series, we've consistently taken time to put into practice the things we've seen Jesus do. This theme of doing the things that Jesus did is central to what following Jesus is all about. In John 14:12 Jesus makes this point extremely clear and takes it even further. Put yourself in the place of Jesus' first followers as they were listening to Jesus. How would you feel when Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do **"even greater things than these"**?"
2. What do you think Jesus meant when he said that his followers would do even greater things than him, **because he's going to the Father**? What about Jesus going to the Father makes it possible for followers like us to do the things that he did?
3. Why do you think Jesus said that it's for our good that he's going away? As followers of Jesus, what could possibly be better than Jesus right here next to us!? According to Jesus in John 16:7, The Holy Spirit dwelling in us is even better than Jesus in the flesh right next to us. Do you value the Holy Spirit's presence in your life that much?
4. In what different ways does Jesus refer to the Holy Spirit? What do these different titles teach us about the Holy Spirit's work in our lives?
5. What are some of the different things that Jesus said the Holy Spirit would do? List them out.
6. How would Jesus' words about the Holy Spirit be comforting to Jesus' followers?