

GROWING IN FAITH



John 14:25-27

²⁵ “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

For More Information Contact:
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STARTING OUT

Begin with a prayer. You can offer your own prayer or use the one below.

Dear God, thank you for the gift of Your Holy Spirit. We are grateful that we can walk through the journey of life knowing that we are never alone. Be with us now as we come together to grow in our faith and in our relationship with You and one another. Amen.

Read the scripture verse for the day – John 14:25-27. Remind everyone that we are reading through the last 12 chapters of John’s Gospel. This lesson covers chapters 14 and 15.

PLAY THE VIDEO

GOING DEEPER

Josh told a story in the video of getting lost in a store as a young boy and the feelings of anxiety that can begin to take over.

Have you ever gotten lost somewhere? What happened? What was it like?

Have you ever felt metaphorically lost in life? What happened? What was it like?

Chapters 14 and 15 in John’s Gospel are part of the “Farewell Discourse” where Jesus is offering his parting words and lessons to his disciples.

What are some of your favorite scriptures from these two chapters?

Why do you think so many people have found comfort from reading these chapters?

If you knew you were about to leave behind loved ones, what parting words and lessons would you want to say?

Josh talked about the “Paraclete” and the translations of that as “helper”, “comforter”, or “advocate”.

How do you see the Holy Spirit fulfilling each of those roles?

How does trusting in the Holy Spirit as helper, comforter, or advocate make a difference in your life?

What other words would you use to describe the activity of the Holy Spirit?

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GOING DEEPER

Read John 15:1-5 together.

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”

What does it mean to abide in Christ?

What kind of “fruit” are we supposed to bear? Refer to Galatians 5:22-23.

Josh talked about some of the means of grace that were important to John Wesley – communion, baptism, Christian conversation, fasting, prayer – that he believed help us abide in Christ.

What “means of grace”, or spiritual disciplines, do you practice that help you grow in your faith?

What is a new spiritual discipline you can add to your life this next week to help you grow in your faith? Share these with a partner in the group and make a commitment to hold each other accountable to these disciplines.

When we abide in Christ we are reminded that we are never alone no matter what we go through in life and we can experience the peace God gives us.

How does knowing God’s presence in your life make a difference to you?

How is the peace that God gives different than the peace the world gives?

Remind the group that they may want to read John 16-17 before next week.

Closing

Take time to lift up joys and concerns in your group before closing in prayer. You can offer your own prayer or use the one below.

Holy Spirit, thank you for this time we have shared together. We ask that you be with us in all the joys and sorrows we go through in life. Help us to abide in you every day. Strengthen us to grow in our faith through the spiritual disciplines so that we might experience your peace in our hearts. Amen.