

**Knowing Jesus and the Spirit**  
**John 16 Discussion Questions**  
4/30/17

1. It was suggested that we have more of an interest in the Holy Spirit than we do in other biblical topics. Do you agree with this statement? Explain why or why not?
2. Some churches/Christians seem to emphasize the Holy Spirit while some seem to ignore Him. What has been your experience?
3. The disciples are filled with sorrow because Jesus tells them they will die (**v.2**). He encourages them by telling them their sorrow will turn to joy (**v.20**). Also, He tells them it is to their advantage that He leaves them because He will send the Holy Spirit to them. Do you think this encouraged them? Explain.
4. The first reason it should encourage us that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit is because He is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Person of the Trinity. What are some indications from the Bible that the Holy Spirit is a Person and not an impersonal force? Do you tend to think of the Holy Spirit as a Person? How do you normally think of the Holy Spirit? Where did your thinking come from?
5. We learn the Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity and is therefore fully God. What are some indications from the Bible that the Holy Spirit is fully God?
6. We also learn the Holy Spirit serves a unique purpose among the three Persons of the Trinity. What are some of the unique roles of the Holy Spirit that are distinct from the Father and the Son?
7. In v.7 Jesus says “if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you.” How would you explain to someone that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have always co-existed everywhere, yet each Person has been revealed to us at a specific time in salvation history? Is this challenging for you to think about or helpful for you to think about?
8. What difference should it make in our lives if we truly believe the Holy Spirit is a Person who is fully God and is with us and in us?
9. Second, it is good the Holy Spirit is with us because He Convicts the world. In **v.9** we learn he convicts the world of sin, because they do not believe in Jesus. Why is it important that we think of conviction not merely as feeling guilty but as believing Jesus died for our sins? What is the difference?
10. Jesus is encouraging the disciples that their responsibility is to testify to Him (**John 15:27**), and the Holy Spirit will be responsible for bringing about conviction (**16:8**). Why should this encourage us? What practical difference should this make for us if we believe this? What would it look like if a person thought he was ultimately responsible for bringing about conviction in the life of an unbeliever?
11. Have you experienced someone coming under conviction by the Holy Spirit? Explain.
12. Third, it is good the Holy Spirit comes to us because He points us to Christ. Jesus says the Holy Spirit will guide them into all the truth (**v.13**). What are some examples of ways He will guide them into truth?
13. In **v.14**, Jesus says the Holy Spirit will glorify Jesus. What are some ways He does this?

14. What are some common but (possibly) unbiblical ways people determine if the Holy Spirit is at work in their lives? What are some biblical ways (especially based on John 16) we can tell if the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives?

15. How would you encourage a believer who seems to want to ignore the topic of the Holy Spirit? How would you encourage someone who wants to talk about the Holy Spirit in a way that is largely disconnected from the Bible and from Jesus?