

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Credo: The Third Article

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Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: Tell the group about an important mentor/teacher/friend you've had in your life!

Reading: John 14:15-26

Outline:

- I. The Holy Spirit (v. 15-17, 25-26)
 - a. The Holy Spirit is the one who "calls alongside"; calls you to faith, helps you in your walk with God, comforts you, counsels you, advocates for you in your prayers, and guides you.
 - b. The Holy Spirit is at work inside of you, creating faith and making you holy.
Q: Why does Jesus say that 'the world' cannot receive the Spirit?
- II. The Church
 - a. We are fundamentally connected and bound to the people of God who have gone before us, who are alive around the globe right now, and those who will come after us.
 - b. God is working to make you holy, liberate you, and to do things in this world through the people of God who are connected and bound to one another.
- III. The End (v. 18-20)
 - a. Just as Jesus was raised from the dead, one day we too will be raised from the dead and be united to God for all eternity.
 - b. Things aren't the way they're supposed to be now, but things will be made right in the end because of Jesus' work on the cross.
Q: What does Jesus promise us in these verses?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) Where have you found your security, truth, and comfort in the last 6 months?
- 2) What have you seen the Holy Spirit do in your life? In the lives of others?
- 3) In a time when we can't gather normally, how have you stayed connected with the church?
- 4) What brokenness do you see in the world right now? How can the church live out the Gospel by demonstrating grace and bringing reconciliation?
- 5) Who in your life is hurting and needs the hope Jesus provides? How can you share it with them?

Suggestions for further study:

- John 16:4b-15 **Q: How does this passage illustrate the Trinity?**
- Acts 2:1-13 **Q: How does the Spirit work through the disciples here?**
- Galatians 5:16-25 **Q: What does it mean to 'walk by the Spirit'?**

Closing Prayer: "Oh Holy Spirit, the Helper, the Comforter, the Counselor, the Advocate, the Teacher, the One who has called us to faith, the One who has gathered us around the word and sacraments, the One who enables us to go forth with the message of the gospel, Spirit we thank you for your work in our lives. God, we pray that you would guide us during this season, that we would grab hold of the hope you've given us, that this isn't the end of the story, and that we would extend that hope to the world around us. We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen."