Walking with the Holy Spirit, *not just religion.*

> *Jesus says His departure is to our advantage, because it makes room for a Helper who walks beside us every day.*

ABOUT THIS PASSAGE

Jesus is days from the cross, speaking with disciples who are grieving because He keeps saying He is leaving. In John 16, He reframes their loss: His going opens the way for the Helper, the Spirit, who will convict, guide, and speak. The sermon pressed one question: is the Spirit present and active in your life today, or has faith become mostly ritual?

OPEN THE ROOM

Think of someone who stays with you even when they are absent. What do they say, and how does that voice shape your actions?

READ THE PASSAGE

Read the passage aloud together before any questions. Split the verses across two or three readers.

John 16:5–15

> *Jesus drinks the cup of the cross, and the Spirit comes to walk with us because of what He did.*

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OBSERVE, WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. What does Jesus say causes the disciples' sorrow in verse 6, and what surprising thing does He say in verse 7?
2. List everything verses 8 through 11 say the Spirit will do. What do you notice about the three areas He addresses?
3. In verses 12 and 13, what does Jesus say He is holding back, and what does He promise the Spirit will do about it?

INTERPRET, WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

INTERPRETATION

1. Why would the Spirit being with us everywhere be better than Jesus beside us in one place, as verse 7 suggests?
2. Acts 2:12-13 shows one miracle producing two reactions. What does that tell us about what the Spirit's work does and does not guarantee?

APPLY, HEAD, HEART, HANDS

HEAD

Which belief about the Holy Spirit did you inherit from your background, and which words in John 16 make you want to test it against what Jesus actually says?

HEART

Jesus says the Spirit will guide you into all truth (v. 13). Where in your week have you felt that quiet nudge and found yourself resisting it?

HANDS

Choose one moment this week: Thursday's 1:1 with your manager, the drive home, or the dreaded call with your sister. Which will you pray over first, and what one sentence will you pray?

THE GOSPEL TURN

Think of a time you resisted the Spirit's nudge. What does it mean that Jesus still sent the Helper to walk beside you anyway?

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BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit is God with us and in us daily, guiding, convicting, and revealing truth to all who listen and cooperate.

CROSS-REFERENCES

01 Acts 2:5-6, devout people from every nation hear the believers in their own language, so the Spirit's first public act makes God's works understandable to outsiders.

02 Acts 2:12-13, the same miracle produces "What could this mean?" and "They are full of new wine," showing identical evidence with different hearts.

CULTURAL / HISTORICAL

In John 16:7, Jesus calls the Spirit the Helper, from the Greek paraklētos, literally "one called alongside." The word describes an advocate or trusted companion who stands next to you, not a force or a feeling.

IF THE GROUP GOES OFF-TEXT

If debates about tongues or denominational differences surface, acknowledge briefly, then redirect to verses 8 through 15 and ask what Jesus says the Spirit actually does.

Plan for 30 seconds of silence after each question. Five questions that go deep beat ten that go fast. Draw out, don't deposit, and speak less than 10% of the meeting.

Acts: Pentecost

PER-QUESTION NOTES

- **OBSERVE 1**

  Strong answers notice the gap between the disciples' loss and Jesus's framing of advantage. If quiet, ask who Jesus is speaking to and what they fear. Watch for a jump to "we're better off than them."

- **OBSERVE 2**

  Strong answers name conviction of sin, righteousness, and judgment, each with its stated reason. If quiet, ask what the Spirit does first. Watch for drifting into a theology lecture.

- **OBSERVE 3**

  Strong answers notice Jesus admits there is more truth than they can bear yet, and the Spirit leads them into it over time. If quiet, ask what Jesus says about the pace of learning. Watch for treating "all truth" as information.

- **INTERPRET 1**

  Strong answers touch on presence: the Spirit can be with every believer at once. If the answer stays surface, ask what would change about their day if that were literally true. Watch for implying Jesus matters less; the Spirit points to Him (v. 14).

- **INTERPRET 2**

  Strong answers note the Spirit invites a response without forcing one. If quiet, ask why the same evidence led to such different responses. Watch for blaming the mockers; the point is that any heart can harden.

- **APPLY HEAD**

  Strong answers are honest and specific. Push for "I" statements, not "we" or "Christians." Watch for debates between traditions; keep it personal.

- **APPLY HEART**

  Strong answers name something real such as pride, fear, or a sense someone doesn't deserve help. If the room goes quiet, wait 30 seconds before rescuing. Watch for pressure; no one must name a person.

- **APPLY HANDS**

  Push for specificity: "Which meeting? Which day?" not "at work." If someone names something vague, ask "by when?" and "with whom?" Watch for "I'll pray more," which is a wish, not a plan.

- **GOSPEL TURN**

  The single strongest landing. Strong answers move from guilt to gratitude, such as "He didn't wait for me to get it right." If quiet, ask what it says about God that He sends help to people who keep stalling. Never answer for the group.

PRAY AND SEND

In one sentence, ask God to be present in the specific moment each person named in Question 8, and to give willingness to listen. Then send each person out with the one-sentence prayer and the day and place they named.