



Gospel Community Notes & Questions

Title: Look for the Helper

Text: John 14:15-31

Theme: Your resource to guide you through fear and doubt and to empower a life of obedient faith is the Holy Spirit.

Teaching Notes: Knowing that he's going away and his disciples are facing significant confusion, doubt, and anxiety, Jesus urges them to pursue lives of obedience and to look for the Helper. The Helper is nothing less than the third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, who will come live in believers to teach, comfort, and empower.

Outline:

1. What Jesus tells the disciples.

- a. Principle: Love is demonstrated through a life of obedience.
- b. Promise: The Lord will make himself increasingly real to those who love and obey him.
- c. Person: Another Helper is coming.
 - 1) What is the Helper?
 - One called alongside to help, to counsel, to advocate.
 - 2) Who is the Helper?
 - The Holy Spirit.
 - 3) What will the Helper do?
 - a) Indwell and empower believers.
 - b) Call to mind truth and the centrality of Christ.
- d. Peace: Objective peace with God that produces existential peace.

2. Why Jesus tells his disciples this.

- a. For comfort and encouragement.
- b. For direction.
- c. For increased faith.

3. So what?

- There will be times and seasons when believers are discouraged, stressed, anxious, and afraid. Jesus' solution is the Spirit's personal presence.



Questions to explore individually and with your group:

1. How would you describe the relationship between love and obedience?
2. For you, what's the single greatest motivation for keeping the commandments of the Lord?
3. Think of a time when your relationship with the Lord felt stagnant, distant, or even on the decline. As you look back, what are some potential contributing causes to that season? How does this align with what Jesus says here, particularly in verses 21 and 23?
4. The sermon mentioned our culture's love of tips, tricks, and advice as the "solution" to everything. How do you observe this tendency in your own life?
5. Why do you think the Father and Son sent the Spirit – a Person – rather than simply loading us up with tips, tricks, and advice for the good life?
6. Verse 26 contains a unique promise for Jesus' apostles (eyewitnesses to the resurrection). What is it? What else could this promise mean for you today?
7. Think about the peace the world offers. What limitations and outright problems come attached to it? How is the peace of Christ different?
8. How does looking for the Helper bring you hope in the midst of your stress, anxiety, confusion, fear, doubt, etc.? Maybe choose one of the reactive emotions that you tend to experience a lot, and discuss how the Spirit's presence and role meets you with truth, grace, and power. Be as specific as possible.
9. What are some specific things you're doing or investing in right now that will be impossible apart from the presence and power of the Holy Spirit?
10. What one actionable thing will you do this week in response to this Scripture?

Prayer Prompts:

1. Praise the Father and Son for sending the Spirit to be in you. Praise the Spirit for his presence and role in your everyday life.
2. Confess where you've failed to love the Lord and keep his commandments.
3. Ask the Spirit to show you the beauty and centrality of Christ, to bear the fruit of love in your heart, and to empower a life of obedient faith, and to do all of this in a way that would be impossible apart from his presence.