

MIDWEEK EVENT

This week's main point is: The Holy Spirit helps us live with God's wisdom.

SCRIPTURE | John 16:13-14; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13; Galatians 5:16-26; 2 Thessalonians 2:13

THEOLOGY CONNECTION | SANCTIFICATION

After we are justified by faith, declared to be in right standing with God through the righteousness of Christ, we undergo a lifetime of sanctification where we are continually made more like Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:16-26; 2 Thess. 2:13). Scripture speaks of sanctification as a present position (we have already been sanctified) and as a continuing process. Sanctification affects the whole of a person, transforming one's heart, mind, and character to reflect that of Jesus.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus promised to send a Counselor in His place when He ascended to heaven after the resurrection (John 14:16). Knowing Jesus means having the Holy Spirit to guide us in wisdom as we grow in our faith. The Holy Spirit helps to sanctify us and make us more like Jesus if we listen to His voice.

1 JOHN 16:13-14; 1 CORINTHIANS 2:10-13

THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES US.

When God visited King Solomon, He didn't place any conditions on the king's request. He simply said, "Ask. What should I give you?" (1 Kings 3:5). What do you think you would've asked for if God had offered you such an open-ended question? If we're honest, not many of us might think to ask for what Solomon requested: wisdom. The good news is, if we've trusted in Jesus as Savior, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, who lives within us. Through Him, we already have wisdom that comes from God. The bad news is because this wisdom is "built in" through the Holy Spirit's presence within us, we might forget to tap into it. We might grow desensitized to His presence. We might forget that we have the most amazing Guide and Helper in our faith life: the Spirit of God. Take a minute to let that sink in. The Holy Spirit isn't some random, ambiguous being; He is the Spirit of God, a member of the Trinity with God the Father and God the Son. While this truth is impossible to fully grasp, we can trust what God has said about this incredible gift: The Holy Spirit knows everything about God, even His thoughts (1 Cor. 2:10-11). He helps us understand what God has given to us freely (1 Cor. 2:12). Whatever the Spirit "declares" to us comes straight from God Himself, and this is the knowledge and wisdom with which He guides us. Solomon knew God's wisdom was the greatest gift He could ask for. How awesome is it that we already have access to that same wisdom through our Guide, the Holy Spirit?

- › **HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE ROLE OF A GUIDE?**
- › **DO YOU THINK A GOOD GUIDE NEEDS TO HAVE WISDOM? WHY OR WHY NOT?**
- › **WHAT ARE SOME WAYS YOU'VE EXPERIENCED THE HOLY SPIRIT AS YOUR GUIDE? EXPLAIN.**
- › **WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES WITHIN US AND IS ALWAYS THERE TO GUIDE US?**

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2 GALATIANS 5:16-26; 2 THESSALONIANS 2:13

THE HOLY SPIRIT SANCTIFIES US.

The Holy Spirit is our guide for daily, godly living, but He also plays an active role in our salvation. His main “job” is sanctification, or simply put, to make us more like Jesus. To do this, not only does the Holy Spirit help us live with God’s wisdom and act as our Guide, but He also convicts us of our sin, gives us courage to have vulnerable or difficult conversations, empowers us to speak boldly on God’s behalf. The Holy Spirit works in and through us to make us, well, holy. That is what God calls us to be, after all (1 Pet. 1:15-16). But we don’t do the work of sanctification; we can’t make ourselves holy. Jesus died to make a way for us to be restored to right relationship with God. When we trust in Him for salvation, that happens. But we’re also called to live out that salvation, to live like we’re His. This is where the Holy Spirit helps us. Because of Him, instead of living lives defined by jealousy, anger, envy, selfishness, and the like, we can instead be defined by character that reflects God. We can live full of love, peace, and gentleness. But we have to choose to keep in step with Him. We have to choose to listen to His leading. The Holy Spirit’s voice might not be audible, but He does speak. He speaks through God’s Word, through the godly wisdom of other believers, through prayer, and sometimes through that knowing deep inside of us that something is right or wrong. Through all of these things, the Holy Spirit makes us more like Jesus.

- › **HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT HAVING A ROLE IN SALVATION? EXPLAIN.**
- › **WHAT’S ONE SPECIFIC AREA WHERE THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS ALREADY MADE YOU MORE LIKE JESUS?**
- › **WHAT’S ONE SPECIFIC AREA YOU NEED TO LEAN INTO HIS LEADING TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS?**
- › **WHY DO YOU THINK IT’S SO HARD FOR SOME PEOPLE TO ACCEPT THAT WE CAN’T MAKE OURSELVES HOLY? HOW CAN THIS ALSO BE COMFORTING?**
- › **WHICH OF THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT IS EASIEST FOR YOU? WHICH IS MOST DIFFICULT? WHY?**

WRAP UP

Invite students to think about a time when they were about to do something and they felt a very clear warning that they shouldn’t or had a very clear impression that they should. For example, maybe they were about to go to somewhere and felt uneasy about it and said no, then were glad later. Or maybe they felt clearly they should go on a mission trip or to an event with new people and had an awesome experience spiritually. Allow all students to think about this for a few minutes, and then ask for volunteers to share. Don’t force anyone to share their moment. After all students who wanted to share have had a chance to do so, close in prayer, asking God to make the Holy Spirit’s voice more noticeable to students and to give them the courage to listen.