

## SAC Small Groups Discussion Guide – Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

This guide comes with the expectation that even if someone has missed the Sunday service, they have watched the sermon before coming to their small group.

### Fellowship Time

Make sure to have time where people can chat and catch up. This section could include a dinner together, having a potluck, preparing snacks, etc. The key to this section is make people feel welcomed and seen.

### Read the Scripture & Overview Aloud Together

This section contains the text and a brief summary of the sermon that was preached on Sunday. It will have the main point explained as a way to help those remember the sermon. This is not an in-depth overview because the expectation is that everyone will take the time to listen to the sermon. Make sure to read this aloud for everyone to hear.

#### **Text**

*John 14:22-31*

*22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?” 23 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. 25 “All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. 28 “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. 29 I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. 30 I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, 31 but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. “Come now; let us leave.*

#### **Overview of Sermon**

*This week we continued our series in the book of John and leaned into the theme from the text of the Holy Spirit, the promised and present one. Jesus has begun his final discourse with the disciples encouraging them not to be troubled when He departs, reminding them that He is the way, the Truth, and the Life, and that He needs to go so that they can do greater things than He has done. Which seems impossible because Jesus is God and did so many amazing miracles, how could His disciples do more? The disciples throughout this conversation have been trying to understand where Jesus is going while Jesus is trying to prepare them for the next part of God’s story. Jesus reminds them that if they love Him, they will keep his commands which come from*

*the Father. Discipleship requires not only hearing, but then action to do the same as Jesus has done. Jesus then promises that the Holy Spirit will come to help them and be with them forever.*

*The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity that has been present with the Father and Son before creation and throughout the Old Testament (Gen. 1:2). The word used in the New Testament for the Holy Spirit is *paraklētos* which is a challenging translation from Greek into English “for the term is too rich in meaning” (Grant Osborne). Some of the English words used are helper, counsellor, comforter, guide, and advocate which all play a part in the different roles that the Holy Spirit does.*

*Jesus promises them that the Holy Spirit will bring them peace when Jesus departs because He will be with/in them. The Spirit will help them and enable them to do the things that Jesus has called us to do. Our hearts are like pools of water that can become contaminated with bacteria and when we see the water is dirty, we dump and refill but never dealing with the bacteria itself. The Holy Spirit is the one who can clean the pool and address it inch of the pool and its bacteria, but only if we allow Him to do the work that He needs to do. Francis Chan wrote this in his book, *Forgotten God*, “Without Him, people operate in their own strength and only accomplish human-sized results”. We need the Holy Spirit to help us live into the life that Jesus has for us.*

### **Discussion Questions**

These questions are prompts to help the group have meaningful dialogue over the sermon this past weekend. Do not feel the need to ask all these questions. You are more than welcome to create your own questions or mix the questions together.

### **Connection to Other (Icebreaker/Light)**

- What has been your experience of the Holy Spirit? If you haven't had one or are unsure, you can share a time that felt spiritual.

### **Connection to Head (Study/Knowledge Questions)**

- Read Genesis 1:2; 6:3; Psalm 139:1-12; Job 33:4. What do these passages teach you about the Holy Spirit?
- Read John 14:22-31. What are some of attributes of the Holy Spirit?

### **Connection to Heart (Deeper Engagement)**

- How would you describe your current relationship with the Holy Spirit? Is He a forgotten presence, a confusing concept, or an active guide in your daily life?
- Jesus emphasized obedience as central to discipleship even after His physical departure. What does it look like practically to obey Jesus' teachings while depending on the Holy Spirit's power rather than your own?

- The sermon suggests beginning each day with an invitation to the Holy Spirit. What fears or hesitations do you have about praying this kind of prayer and surrendering control to the Spirit's work?

### Reflect and Discuss the Practice and Prayer.

This is an opportunity for accountability and formation in your group. Accountability to ensure people are practicing the practices and formation because we believe that these practices will shape and form us into the people that God intended us to be. Take time to practice this together and reflect on each person's experience of these practices.

**Practice:** Begin each day with a prayerful invitation for the Holy Spirit to be at work.

- Light a candle and take 5 minutes to begin your day in prayer.
- Set a reminder on your phone to pray, put the phone away on silent, and take time to invite the Holy Spirit to be at work.

**Prayer:** Lord, I am open to the Holy Spirit. Come to me, dwell in me, speak to me so I may become more like Christ. Lord, give me the courage to be open. Lord, I am open to the Holy Spirit. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Prayer Together.

Take some time to pray with each other. This is not a time for gossip or to be cynical, this is an opportunity to share with each other our burdens, to celebrate and praise God together, and to pray expectantly that God would move.