

BACK TO NORMAL... BACK TO PNEUMA

The Guide

May 2, 2021

Overarching Theme: In 2021, FUMC will be SENT with the peace of Christ!

Instructions:

When using this material as teacher, feel free to pick and choose the point you want to emphasis in the lesson. *The format of the curriculum is designed to have an abundance of information in which to refer as desired.*

Core Point:

On Easter evening, the Risen Christ appears to his gathered disciple for the first time since Good Friday and speaks these words: "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Just as Jesus sent his disciples into a divided, conflicted 1st Century with his peace, so he sends us into a divided, conflicted 2021 with his peace.

John:

The Gospel according to John is written by John, one of the apostles, who was the brother of another apostle named James and all the Gospels mention their father's name as Zebedee (Mark's Gospel in addition mentions that Jesus gave these brothers the name 'Sons of Thunder'). John's Gospel is quite different from the other three (does not contain a genealogy, or any record of Jesus' birth, childhood, temptation, transfiguration, appointment of the disciples, nor any account of Jesus parables) because more than his Gospel giving an account of the life of Christ, it is a powerful argument for the incarnation of Christ. The purpose of the writing of this Gospel was to demonstrate conclusively that Jesus was, and is, the very heaven-sent Son of God and that all who believe in him will have eternal life because he is it's only source. It was written to new Christians and also to seekers of salvation and truth sometime between AD 85 and 90. A key verse of this Gospel is: "Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (20:30-31). Some of the special features of this Gospel are: In every chapter Jesus' deity is revealed and his true identity of the divine-human nature and life-giving mission is underscored through the many titles he is given as well as through the eight miracles of Christ which John mentions, calling them signs. The greatest sign, of course, is the resurrection and John provides a stirring eyewitness account of finding the empty tomb and various post-resurrection

appearances of Jesus. Of these miracles, six are unique to John as well as the 'Farewell / Upper Room Discourse' (chapters 14-17); over 90% of John is unique to his Gospel. John records seven 'I am' sayings of Jesus through which he affirms his preexistence and eternal deity.

– Adapted from The Life Application Bible, p. 1866.

Reflect on this Scripture:

John 14:25-27 NRSV

²⁵ "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

John 16:12-14 NRSV

¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Introduction:

Last week we looked at how the Holy Spirit helps us live the Christian life to the fullest. This week we will look at how the Holy Spirit is our guide.

This Week:

Among the many blessings that the Holy Spirit brings us, and last week we saw as our helper, the Spirit is also our guide. Jesus had a limited time with his disciples physically here on earth. There was much that he needed to teach them but he knew that they would not be able to understand and absorb it all then. Therefore, he promised that the Holy Spirit would come to be their guide so as to remind them of what he already taught and to teach them new things about God's Kingdom come through him. This would be done by the Spirit revealing what Jesus wants to reveal and in so doing, glorify Jesus.

The Holy Spirit too would guide them deeper into the truth about Jesus not in an instant but more and more as they journey together in their faith in Christ and remain faithful, especially in difficult times which would come. So the guidance of the Holy Spirit would always be grounded in and consistent with what the Father has already revealed through Jesus' life and teaching, would be given to those who believe in Christ and seek to grow in their faith in Christ, and would not be

something that is only experienced by believers individually but experienced best as believers live the Christian life in relationship with each other because the Spirit's guidance is given to the community of faith in Christ, the Church.

Jesus knew that his disciples then and all others who would come after them will find it difficult and very challenging to follow him and live the Christian life in a discipleship-unfriendly world. His disciples would be disturbed and distressed not knowing what is the truth and how to be faithful. There would be spiritual things that would be beyond their intellect and reach which they would find hard to understand. So the Holy Spirit would guide them into truth and give their hearts peace by giving them the mind of Christ even as they seek to be filled by the Spirit to be faithful to Jesus.

As you have time, look up these passages in the Bible and see how they relate to what Jesus mentioned about the Holy Spirit in John 14 and 16.

- 1 Corinthians 2:6-16
- 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- 1 John 2:20-28

Questions to Ponder for Accountability in the Group:

1. What are some of the challenges in the world faced by Christians that make it difficult to know the will and purposes of God and to be a faithful disciple of Christ?
2. What must we as disciples of Christ do so as to receive guidance from the Holy Spirit? How can we be sure that the guidance received is from the Holy Spirit and what role does Christian community play in it?
3. If the Holy Spirit is our guide how can our hearts find peace? What kind of peace is Jesus talking about in Jn. 14:27?
4. What one area in your life would you want greater guidance by the Holy Spirit of God so that you would experience Christ's peace?

Activity for the Life of a Disciple:

1. Remember to find encouragement for the day by reading the daily devotional from FUMCC.
2. Ponder and pray on this scripture this week: John 16:13 NRSV
¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

3. Prayerfully approach God in asking to be reminded and further taught by the Holy Spirit on the truth so as to receive guidance in your life and experience the peace of Christ.