

The Christian's Guide



SABBATH—MAY 20

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Luke 2:25-30; John 14:26; John 15:26; John 16:12-14; Romans 8:3, 4; 1 Corinthians 12:10.

MEMORY VERSE: “But when the [Holy] Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own. He will speak only what he hears. And he will tell you what is still going to happen” (John 16:13, NIV).

JESUS' DEATH FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD IS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL TRUTHS. Because it is so important, God has not left it up to us to figure it out by ourselves. Instead, He has promised us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will guide us in our understanding of this truth. For this reason, no one will have an excuse in the day of judgment.

The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us as sinners. Without Jesus' death, there would have been no salvation for anyone. Without the Holy Spirit to guide, renew, and empower us, there would be no salvation. Jesus and the Holy Spirit are committed to bringing us back into God the Father's presence. Through Jesus and the Holy Spirit, the Father plans to restore¹ the peace and unity between God and humanity before sin entered the world.

This week, we will study the important work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, May 27.

¹ restore—make something as it was in the beginning.

SUNDAY—MAY 21**THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A GUIDE
(John 14:26).**

“An ambassador speaks in the name of (represents) his or her home government to a foreign government. In the same way, the Holy Spirit will speak to us in Jesus’ name and with Jesus’ authority (power). Jesus has continued His earthly teaching ministry (work) through the Holy Spirit. Jesus acts through the Holy Spirit.”
—Adapted from *Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 282.

In addition to teaching, what else will the Holy Spirit do? John 14:26.

“After Christ went to His Father in heaven, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples. Then the disciples fully understood Jesus’ character and mission. After the disciples had received the Holy Spirit, they began to understand that they had been in the very presence of Jesus’ glory. As they remembered His sayings, their minds were opened to better understand His prophecies, the miracles He had done, and His lessons. The Bible² became to them a new book.”—Adapted from *The Desire of Ages*, p. 507.

What other promises does Jesus give us about the Holy Spirit? John 14:16, 17; John 15:26; John 16:12-14.

The Holy Spirit is a living, personal Teacher. Every time we open the Bible, the Holy Spirit opens to us the true meaning of what we read. The key to this is to surrender ourselves daily to Jesus. We must ask Him to open our hearts and minds to truth. When we do this, the Holy Spirit will guide us.



The Holy Spirit will help us understand the Bible.

**Do you listen to the Holy Spirit?
Or do you make excuses so you
can do what you want to?**

MONDAY—MAY 22

FLESH AND SPIRIT (Romans 8:3, 4).

Write in your own words what you believe Paul is saying in

²the Bible—the disciples did not have the Bible as we have it today. They studied the holy writings of the Hebrew prophets. These writings are in the Old Testament of our Bible.

Romans 8:3, 4. Focus on what walking “after the Spirit” means. Also read Romans 13:14 and Galatians 5:22-24.

Christians choose not to follow their own feelings and satisfy their own desires. Instead, they choose to follow the Holy Spirit's leading. Jesus' faithful followers will never do anything without asking for God's advice and guidance. Christians continually ask, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Our faith grows when we live by it and when we learn from our mistakes. Under the Holy Spirit's guidance, belief will result in action and behavior.

Much of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives is a miracle of faith. His work does not just happen automatically. None of us who has given our hearts to Christ has suddenly found ourselves living a righteous (holy) life without any hard work. Here is where people make a mistake. They think that not depending on their own strength in the battle against sin is the same as not having a daily struggle with their own sinful desire. This is not true. The battle is real. The battle will require suffering on our part to gain victory over sin, but the good news is that God has promised us victory through the Holy Spirit working in our lives.

What message does 1 Peter 4:1, 2 have for us about the battle against the flesh?

What sin causes you to suffer in the flesh as you try to overcome it in Christ's name? What can you do daily that could help you have victory with the power of the Holy Spirit?

TUESDAY—MAY 23

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BIBLE (Ephesians 6:17).

Read Ephesians 6:17. God's Word (the Bible) is called the sword of the Holy Spirit. It was the Holy Spirit who inspired the Bible. “The Holy Spirit guided the prophets as they spoke” (2 Peter 1:21, NIV). This is an important point all Christians must always remember. God promises us His Holy Spirit, but He also gives us warnings.

How do 1 Corinthians 12:7, 10; 1 Timothy 4:1; and 1 John 3:24–4:1 help us understand these warnings?

There are many different spirits teaching many lies. Even in the Christian church, people are teaching strange beliefs and practices because they claim the Holy Spirit inspires them. Sometimes these strange beliefs and practices are easy to see, but many people still believe them. Other times strange beliefs and practices are quite clever. People who might be kind, loving, gentle, and sincere are teaching these lies. So how can someone test the spirits to learn if they are from God?

What do the following verses teach us about testing to see if a teaching is really inspired by the Holy Spirit? Psalm 119:105; Isaiah 8:20; Luke 10:26; Luke 16:29-31; Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 3:14-17.



God's Word (the Bible) helps us to understand the Holy Spirit.

“We should push ourselves both to read and listen to the Bible if we want to receive any gain and profit from the Spirit of God. . . . God would have us recognize Him in His own image. He has stamped His image upon the Holy Bible. God is the Author of the Holy Bible. He cannot change and differ from Himself. He must ever remain just as He once showed Himself there.”—Adapted from John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion I*, 9:2 (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1960).

What spiritual lies have you faced? How did the Bible protect you? Be prepared to share your answer with the class.

WEDNESDAY—MAY 24

GIVING GLORY TO JESUS (John 16:13, 14).

What does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do? John 16:14.

The work and purpose of the Holy Spirit are centered on Jesus. The Holy Spirit does not call attention to Himself. Instead, He directs our attention to Jesus. The test of the Holy Spirit's work in believers or organizations is how they glorify Jesus. If they attract attention to themselves, they do not have the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is not to present His own ideas. Instead, He is to present only what Jesus taught. Jesus said, “He [the Holy Spirit] will bring me [Jesus] glory by receiving something from me and showing it to you” (John 16:14, NIV).

Being the Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit will show us Jesus. Jesus is the Truth (John 14:6). Only when the Spirit speaks directly to our hearts can we come to a true and living knowledge of Jesus.

What other ways does the Holy Spirit give glory to Jesus? John 15:8; Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 5:6-9.



The fruit of the Spirit gives glory to Jesus.

As believers, we can bring glory to God by the lives we live, the characters we develop, and the way we treat others. Our lives, characters, and actions are a result of the Holy Spirit's work in us. Glorifying God depends on three things: (1) how much we cooperate with the Holy Spirit, (2) how much we are willing to die to self, and (3) how much we surrender to God's will. So, we see how important it is to daily surrender to the Holy Spirit with faith and thanksgiving.

Think about your life in the past 24 hours. What things did you do that brought glory to God? What things brought shame to Him? What changes do you need to make?

THURSDAY—MAY 25

AN EXAMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S GUIDANCE (Luke 2:25-30).

Answer the following questions based on Luke 2:25-30.

1. How did Simeon know when to go to the temple in order to find "the Lord's Christ"?

2. Why was Simeon so open to the leading of the Holy Spirit? What can we learn from this?

3. What was the meaning of Simeon's prayer? What was he doing through his prayer? Read John 15:26; John 16:12-14. Why is this point important in understanding the Holy Spirit's work?

4. Notice Simeon's words to Mary. He spoke these words of the Holy Spirit. What gift of the Holy Spirit was being shown here? Read Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10.

Simeon enjoyed such a close relationship with God that the Holy Spirit told him to go to the temple on the day Jesus was being dedicated. From among all the boys being dedicated that day, Simeon was led to choose Jesus. The Baby Jesus surely did not look any different from the other baby boys. Meanwhile, the priest dedicating Jesus did not even recognize Him as the Messiah. The priest was not open to the Holy Spirit's leading. Some of the other boys whom Simeon did not recognize as the Messiah might also have been born in Bethlehem as the firstborn child to mothers from the family of King David (Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 9:7). Simeon's close relationship with God through

the Holy Spirit made it possible for him to recognize Jesus as the Messiah.

FRIDAY—MAY 26

ADDITIONAL STUDY: Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 703–705; *The Great Controversy [War]*, pp. vii, viii; 467–469; 607–610; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 52–55; *Counsels to Teachers, Parents, and Students*, pp. 357–361.

“Even the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart is to be tested by the Bible. The Spirit that inspired the Bible always leads to the Bible.”—Adapted from *Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 43.

About the statement in John 16:14 that reads, “He [the Spirit] shall glorify me [Jesus],” Ellen G. White wrote, “In John 16:14, Christ announces the greatest work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit gives glory to Christ by making people pay Him the highest respect. And Christ becomes the delight, the rejoicing, of the believer whose heart is changed by Him.”—Adapted from *My Life Today*, p. 49.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. As a class, go over your answers to Tuesday's last question. What are some of the spiritual lies people have faced? What things have you learned that could be helpful to others?
2. One person knows a lot about God and Bible truth, but that person is mean, nasty, and judgmental.³ Another person does not know much about God and Bible truth, but that person is kind, loving, and forgiving. Which one do you think is showing more of the Holy Spirit in his or her life? Explain your answer.
3. How should the church answer someone who is acting rather strange but claims to be moving under the Holy Spirit's leading?
4. What can you do as a class that would bring glory to God? Does it take a fancy show to honor Him? Or can you give glory to God in quiet, simple ways? Explain your answer.

³judgmental—to always find fault with other people; pointing out to people the wrong things they have done.