**1. Motivate**

When did you think you had lost something only to discover it was never lost to begin with?

* car keys were in the purse/pocket
* glasses were on my head
* looking for the car in the parking lot … actually I had driven the truck
* my wallet was not lost, it was in the pocket of slacks hanging in the closet
* my cell phone was not lost, one of the kids was playing a game on it
* the kid’s bicycle was not lost, his friend had borrowed it
* lawn mower not stolen, we remember loaning it to a neighbor at the end of last season
* TV remote not lost, someone had set it right there on the TV stand, with the TV
* pet dog not run away, found sleeping on parents bed

**2. Transition**

The disciples were beginning to fear the loss of their leader, Jesus.

* Jesus now tells them He will be with them in a different way.
* The Holy Spirit would come to guide them, empower them, convict them of sin and point to the truth of salvation.

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_3pg85j8k> . If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/3a3yvhah>

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit

Listen for who testifies.

John 15:26-27 (NIV) "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. 27 And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

What did Jesus reaffirm to the disciples?

* He would send the Holy Spirit
* the Spirit of Truth
* He will come from God the Father
* He will testify about Jesus

How is the truth of the union of the Trinity, the Father, Son, and Spirit seen in verse 26?

* Jesus is sending the Spirit
* The Spirit, the Counselor will come
* The Spirit comes from the Father

Why do you think it is important that Jesus called Him the “Spirit of Truth?”

* truth is that which aligns with reality
* it is true in all situations, for all people
* there are many ideas and religious concepts floating around out there which *do not* align with reality
* God’s Spirit will make sure we are aware of reality, of Spiritual Truth

The Greek word used for *counselor* has to do with one who “comes along side.” When you hire a counselor, what kind of service do you anticipate? How will they come alongside?

* give good advice
* be with you in a stressful or complicated situation
* be an expert in the field for which he/she counsels
* represent you before others (in court, in a business deal, in a legal proceeding)
* help you solve problems (financial, marital, legal, academic, etc.)

What are ways in which the Holy Spirit testifies/witnesses about Christ?

* He is the Spirit of Truth (the Spirit of **the** Truth, much more than someone who hands out “truisms” )
* He reveals the Truth
* He gives enlightenment and understanding concerning Scriptures we read and hear
* He empowers believers to communicate the Truth of the Gospel message

What does this have to do with Jesus instruction in verse 27?

* believers must also testify about Jesus
* the Holy Spirit will testify of Jesus to us, we testify of Jesus to others
* God’s Spirit will also testify/speak *through* believers
* He will bring to our minds words of encouragement and challenge
* When we share the Truth of God’s message, the Holy Spirit does the convicting, the convincing of the one who hears the message
* it’s not up to *us* to convince someone about the Gospel message … we are merely the communicators … the Counselor is the one who convinces

In what ways does the Holy Spirit enable us to be witnesses?

* boldness
* brings verses to our minds as we communicate
* gives us help as we prepare
* gives us compassion/empathy for the lost
* prompts us to speak up to someone who is ready to hear
* sets up “divine appointments”

3.2 The Spirit Convicts/Convinces of Sin

Listen for the convincing work of the Spirit.

John 16:7-11 (NIV) But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; 10 in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

What advantage would come to the disciples only if Jesus went away to the Father? What did Christ’s going away have to do with the coming of the Holy Spirit?

* Jesus had limited Himself physically to the dimensions of time and space
* He could only be in one place at a time
* When God the Son left the world (left time and space) and returned to Heaven, then God, in the person of the Holy Spirit would come and live within the lives of believers
* The Holy Spirit (because He is Spirit) would not be limited to time and space
* God can be present in the lives of all believers everywhere at the same time

What work of the Holy Spirit does Jesus introduce and what are the three areas to which it is applied?

* Convict/convince the world of sin
	+ the sin of unbelief
* Convince of righteousness
	+ only through the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives can we live lives of righteousness

*This section may be better covered by lecture than by discussion,*

* + we live righteously *as a result* of our salvation, not to earn salvation
* Convince of judgment
	+ Satan is already judged, condemned
	+ he is a defeated enemy
	+ we are set free from his power

What are some ways the Holy Spirit helps us recognize our sins?

* through Scripture
* through preaching and teaching
* through the sowing and reaping principle
* when we act sinfully, there are often consequences
* the Spirit points out to us that these problems are the result of our bad choices

Why is it a positive thing to be convicted of your sin?

* then we are convinced that we must deal with the problem
* we must confess, repent, receive forgiveness
* then we can be set free from the load of guilt
* we also learn we can be set free from the power of sin – through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives

3.3 The Holy Spirit Guides to Truth

Listen for how Jesus is glorified.

John 16:12-15 (NIV) "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the 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 yet to come. 14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

What work of the Spirit does Jesus identify in verse 13?

* He comes
* He guides us into all Truth
* He speaks to us the messages of what He hears

Whose message does the Spirit declare and to whom does He bring glory?

* the source of the messages is God the Father
* He brings glory to God the Son, to Jesus
* He reminds us of Jesus’ teachings
* He brings to our thoughts the Truth of what Jesus said
* He impresses upon us the teaching of God’s Word

What are some obstacles that can prevent us from clearly hearing from the Holy Spirit?

* when we repeatedly reject the convincing work of the Spirit
* easier and easier to ignore what He is speaking to us
* when you neglect the reading, study of God’s Word
* when you stay away from worship and preaching of God’s Truth
* fill your mind with worldly amusements
* when we are too busy to spend time with God
* we take control of our own lives

Verse 14 speaks of the Spirit’s task to glorify Jesus. Why is it so important that the Spirit always points to Jesus?

* some folks might over emphasize the Gifts of the Spirit … it is Jesus’ work of redemption that is important
* Jesus was God who came as man … who died for us and rose again … these are the main Truths of Scripture
* we have lots of other influences in our lives that want to take our focus off of Jesus – the Spirit maintains that focus on Him

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Think.

* When has the Holy Spirit provided specific guidance for you?
* Recall the details of that event and then thank Him for speaking truth into your life.

Decide.

* Hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit above all the other voices that call out to you is a necessity.
* Decide today to investigate the many biblical ways the Holy Spirit can speak.

Act.

* We’re all a work in process, being shaped more and more into the image of Christ.
* Maybe there’s an area of your life that needs a course correction.
* You know what area it is because the Holy Spirit has told you, perhaps repeatedly.
* Confess your sin and form an action plan to be more faithful in that area of your life.

Ah HA! This message was forwarded to us from our embassy in Bonzbefolk. It’s not a decryption job, it’s simply a reconstruction. The letters were pasted on, but rain affected the glue and some of the letters slid down, straight down. Some will be easy, there’s only one letter in that column. Then look for two or three letter words and figure out which letters make meaningful words. The chairman of your church’s evangelism committee is waiting for the reconstruction for this message. Technical help is found at <https://tinyurl.com/3a3yvhah> Other activities of intrigue are also available.



