



## Sermon Discussion Questions

Consider opening and closing your discussion with a time of silent prayer to invite the presence of the Holy Spirit.

1. What do you think of when you think about the Holy Spirit?  
(Words, symbols, associations, etc.)
2. Have you ever had an experience of the Holy Spirit? What was it like? How did you know?
3. Why does Jesus say it is for his disciples' own good that he goes away? (John 15:7-8)
4. What does the Holy Spirit do, according to John 15:8-11 and 15:12-15?
5. What's the relationship between the Holy Spirit and Jesus?
6. What did the sermon say were two reasons why someone might not "hear" the Holy Spirit? Did either of these hit home for you?

## **John 15:26-27, 16.4b-15**

<sup>26</sup>‘When the Advocate 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. <sup>27</sup>And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you,<sup>5</sup> but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, “Where are you going?”<sup>6</sup> Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. <sup>7</sup>But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup>When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup>about sin, because people do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup>about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; <sup>11</sup>and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

<sup>12</sup>‘I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup>But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the 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. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. <sup>15</sup>All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.’

## **Acts 2:1-21, 37-39**

**2** When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues<sup>α</sup> as the Spirit enabled them.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup>When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. <sup>7</sup>Utterly amazed, they asked: ‘Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans?’ <sup>8</sup>Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,<sup>β</sup> <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs – we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!’ <sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, ‘What does this mean?’

<sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, ‘They have had too much wine.’

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ‘Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen

carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> "In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood  
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls  
on the name of the Lord will be saved." 

<sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.'