

The Gathering Community Group Guide

The Helper // Part 2 // He isn't Jesus' crazy uncle

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January 11, 2015

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Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN MEMBERS COME PREPARED. TAKE TIME BEFORE GROUP TO GO OVER THIS GUIDE.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

This week we took a deeper look into WHO the Holy Spirit is. In part 1, we learned that he's called the Helper because we need help, and this week we examined how much easier it is to accept help from someone that we know. The Big Idea says is like this: when we know the Helper, we'll trust his help. Not many of us would accept help from a stranger, because the less we know people, the less we trust them. It's not any different with the Helper, and if we're going to open ourselves up to his help, we need to go a little deeper in knowing who he is.

1. **The Helper is God:** Sometimes it can seem that we quickly accept the Father and the Son as God, but relegate the Holy Spirit to something like a "crazy uncle" status, but the Holy Spirit is God just as much as the Father and Jesus. If the Helper is just an idea, we can reject him. If he's God, rejecting him is risky. Sure, we may not understand everything about the Holy Spirit, but since he's God, why would we expect to?
2. **The Helper is a person:** Can you imagine how it would feel to be treated like an object instead of a person? That's a great way to understand how the Helper feels. He isn't a force, a thing or an "it." He is a person. In fact, he's the third person of the trinity, and he feels, he speaks and interacts. Reducing him to a formula keeps him at arms length and under a microscope. Seeing him as a person opens us up to a relationship with him.
3. **The Helper is our friend:** The best part about knowing the Holy Spirit as a person is that he isn't content to just be a person off in the distance (like the IRS or something!!) – the Helper wants to have a close friendship with us! He dwells with us, fellowships with us, and draws near to us. These are the actions of a friend.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What was one helpful or troubling insight or principle from this week's message, if any?
- Have you ever been approached by a stranger looking to help you or looking for help from you? Describe what that was like. How would it have been different if you had known them?
- What are some of the "unknowns" that are common about the Holy Spirit? What are some of the "unknowns" that cause YOU to be less trusting of the Helper?
- If you could have ONE question answered about the Holy Spirit, what would it be?
- Read John 14:16-17. According to these verses, we can't have the Holy Spirit if we try to keep him at arm's length. On a scale of 1-10 (1 being a stiff arm like an All-Pro running back and 10 being closer than melted butter on a roll), where are you in relation to the Helper. How do you hope this series helps that change?
- If you haven't already done so, sign up for the daily devotions during the series by sending the keyword **thehelper** to **72717**.