

**THE BIG IDEA: He's called the Helper because we need help.**

### The Take-Off

I have been so pumped for so long about our first series of 2015, and finally, it's here!

This morning we're starting a study on the Holy Spirit that we've called "The Helper"

Have you ever read warning labels and disclaimers and thought, "Well, duh!"

Maybe like these [pics of warning labels]

I feel like we need a "well, duh!" warning label on this series, because if we're truly asking God to help us understand the Holy Spirit, then things won't be staying the same in our church, in our families or in our personal lives.

If I told you that blowing up a stick of dynamite would move things, you'd say, "Well, duh!"

As we'll see in the series, the Helper is compared to dynamite power, and so we need to buckle up and expect to be moved over the series, and ultimately, over the rest of our lives as we walk with Jesus.

In the intro video that we made for the series, you saw the verse that our title comes from.

It's found in John 16:7, and it's right in the middle of Jesus' last big conversation with his disciples before the cross.

Let's pick it up in verse 1 and listen in on the conversation...

So, Jesus tells the disciples that people will kill them as an act of worship (v. 2) and that he is going to leave them and won't be around when all of this goes down (v. 5).

Then, in one of the greatest understatements of all time in scripture, Jesus admits in verse 6 that his disciples are upset about what he just told them.

You think? As outspoken and brash as Peter was, I'm surprised the next verse didn't say, "Thank you, Captain Obvious!" Instead, our theme verse contains an amazing statement from Jesus.

Jesus tells his followers that with all the turmoil that was going to take place, it would be better for them if he wasn't around.

As they were picking their jaws off the ground, Jesus told them why: his leaving meant the coming of the Helper, and after hearing everything they just did, I've got to think that the disciples - although very confused - could all agree on one thing: they were going to need a lot of help.

Fast forward to our time.

The world is in all kinds of turmoil. Sin is rampant, racial tension is approaching terrifying levels, the church is ineffective and apathetic in the world.

Many of us in our own church are in turmoil. Family turmoil, financial turmoil, faith turmoil.

Sometimes we shy away from the Holy Spirit because we don't understand him, but the most foundational truth that we have got to see is today's Big Idea: the Holy Spirit is called the Helper because we need help!

Sometimes we get too prideful and don't want to admit that we need help, but God made sure that we would always know how much we need help by calling his followers sheep in the Bible, because sheep are dumb.

Not known for being very smart, sheep tend to flee and panic in the face of extremely stressful situations and can often times be very difficult to shepherd!

That's how God describes all of us who are following him!

Need some proof? Here's video evidence that at least 25% of sheep aren't very bright!

[Video of jumping sheep]

So, we are sheep and we need help and so that's why Jesus sent the Helper.

Over the remainder of the series, we'll look at **who the Helper is, what the Helper does, what the Helper wants us to do and what the Helper has given us to help us do what he wants us to do.**

That was a mouthful, but let's start the whole thing off by allowing Scripture to convince us that we need help, and therefore, we need the Helper.

I can think of at least 3 reasons why we need the Helper:

#### **1. We need help receiving the love by God**

- a. Being able to fully receive and accept how much you and I are loved by God is not a new problem
- b. We can see in a passage that we read a lot at The Gathering that really grasping God's love has been an issue for believers way back to the days when Paul was living
- c. Look what's happening in Ephesians 3:14-18
  - Paul's praying for them to be able to understand the love of God (v. 18)

- That happens when we are strengthened in the power of the Spirit (v. 16)
- d. Romans 8:15
  - The Spirit is instrumental in making us God's children
  - Not just children, but spiritual sons and daughters without "daddy" issues!
  - The Helper helps us receive the love of God and to see God as our father

## 2. We need help understanding the word of God

- a. I hope that I'm not the only one in the room who sometimes struggles to understand what I'm reading when I read the Bible!
- b. There are times when it can seem like a lifeless collection of writings
- c. Sometimes it seems to confuse me more than inspire me
- d. We need help understanding the word of God
- e. 1 Corinthians 2:12-14
  - the Bible is a spiritual book
  - it is to be understood spiritually, and we need help with that
  - Paul uses phrases like "words taught by the Spirit" and "spiritual realities" and "Spirit-taught words" (v. 13)
  - Verse 14 Paul is clear that we can't understand spiritual things naturally
  - Reading and understanding the Bible is not just a mental exercise, and we need the help of the Holy Spirit to fully understand what God's saying to us
- f. Never read the Bible without first inviting the Helper to help you understand what you're reading

## 3. We need help doing the work of God

- a. Jesus told the disciples to go into the whole world and make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20)
- b. He was very clear on this, and he said it emphatically.
- c. But right after he told them to go, he told them to ... wait? (Acts 1:4)
- d. What was so important that saving the world could wait? The power to do the work of God! (Acts 1:8)
- e. You and I are a part of that work - making disciples worldwide - and so we need the Helper as well.
- f. What we'll learn in this series is that the Holy Spirit doesn't just give us starting power, but staying power, too.

### The Landing

Remember our warning label and disclaimer from the beginning? Dynamite will move things! Remember? I want to end this first week with a video and a practical next step that could end up being anything but practical. First, the video.

[Aunt Janice on the slingshot]

Here's what I want you to take away...as we get to know the Holy Spirit, we're going to find ourselves on a journey, and none of us can know exactly where it's going to end up.

But trusting the Holy Spirit - the Helper - goes a long way toward how much we enjoy the ride.

So the first step is a practical one: I want you to get out your phone or device and I want you to text "thehelper" to the number 72717 and get signed up for daily devotions throughout the series.

That sounds practical, and it is, but what will happen as we do these devotions together as a church is we'll find ourselves buckled into the ride more and more securely, and ready for wherever the Helper leads us.

Let's pray.