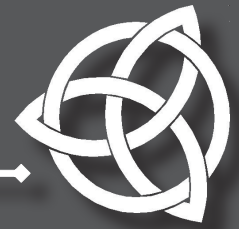




# TRI GOD



A PINECREST LIFEGROUP STUDY RESOURCE

**Sermon Title:** *Freedom Maker! (The Holy Spirit)*

**Speaker:** Ray Schwartz

**Main Passage:** John 16:5-15

**Date:** May 2, 2010

## Getting Started

- » Share with the group your most memorable tour guided experience. Share when and why you took the guided tour as well as what made it so memorable (was it the guide, the tour, something else?). <sup>1</sup>
- » What do you think is the most common misconception people—including Christians—have about the Holy Spirit? Why do you think this is the case?
- » This morning, Ray said that people have a hard time with the Holy Spirit because He seems so “mystical”. How do you picture the Holy Spirit? Do you think it’s an accurate picture? Why/why not?

## The Study

- » What challenged you the most from this morning’s sermon? Was there anything new that you hadn’t heard or learned before? What was most important? What questions did it generate?
- » Do you struggle accepting or seeing the Holy Spirit as a separate entity of the Trinity? Why is it important to understand that the Holy Spirit is fully God? Does it really matter? Why/why not? <sup>2</sup>
- » Have someone read **GENESIS 1:1-2** out loud. Have you thought about the Holy Spirit being part of the creation story before? Is this the same Holy Spirit we read about in the New Testament? <sup>3</sup>
- » Have someone in the group read **JOHN 16:5-15** out loud. What stands out the most to you in this passage? Why do you think it was so important for Jesus to point out that He would send the Holy Spirit once He was gone? What roles does Jesus indicate the Spirit plays in our lives? <sup>4</sup>
- » In the John 16:5-15 passage Jesus calls the Holy Spirit our “Advocate” which Ray taught can be translated “Counselor”...or more accurately: “Paraclete”. What do these names for the Holy Spirit mean to you? Do you think this means that the Spirit is on our side as our representative or is He simply pointing out the sin in our lives? <sup>5</sup>
- » Read **PSALM 139:7-8** as a group. Does this passage give you comfort or make you uncomfortable?
- » Ray outlined the following four roles of the Holy Spirit <sup>6</sup>:
  1. Counselor (Psalm 139:7-8)
  2. Guarantor (Ephesians 1:13-14)
  3. Life Coach (Galatians 5:16-18)
  4. The Giver of Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

As a group, pick one of these roles that challenges you the most and discuss your thoughts, ideas and reactions based on the sermon and your own thinking. Now discuss the one that is easiest for you to understand and accept. How can understanding these roles help you develop a better relationship with the Holy Spirit?

- » **GALATIANS 5:16-25** indicates that we should live our lives guided and directed by the Holy Spirit. How do we do this practically? Do you struggle being led by the Spirit (or knowing how to listen)? Why? According to this Scripture, what kind of “fruit” is produced in our lives when we let the Holy Spirit guide our lives? Share examples of this truth in your own life or in the life of someone you know. <sup>7</sup>
- » Now that we’re done with the Trinity series, discuss what has made the most impact for you over the past four weeks. How have you grown? What have you learned? How are you different as a result?

## Application

- » Ray indicated that the Holy Spirit plays a key role in us finding God. He quoted A.W. Tozer: “The primary work of the Holy Spirit is to restore the lost soul to intimate fellowship with God.” Think back on the process you went through before you got into right relationship with God. Can you see the Spirit working in that process? Share your experience with the group.
- » How do you typically interact with the Holy Spirit (if you do at all)? How can you build a better, stronger bond and relationship with Him? What will you do differently this week and how can the group hold you accountable to that?
- » Ray stated that the spiritual health of a church is not determined by the worship service, the speaker, or the facility, but by how many individual members are using their spiritual gifts in ministry. How do you think Pinecrest is doing in this area? How about you personally? Discuss as a group. <sup>8</sup>
- » As a group, spend time specifically and directly praying to the Holy Spirit. Ask Him for guidance and direction in your life. Ask Him to help you tune into and listen to Him more consistently. Spend some time talking to Him and seeking His counsel. <sup>9</sup>
- » Spend some time this week in Scripture looking for passages and stories that include the Holy Spirit. Examine what Scripture says about the Spirit. How do people in the Bible interact with the Spirit? Look for areas where you can grow closer to Him and accept more of His power and guidance in your life. Ask Him this week to show you more of Himself. Journal what you discover and hear.
- » Are there any unanswered questions, thoughts, or ideas we haven't discussed yet? Don't be shy... time's almost up on this topic. Get it off your mind now!
- » Share with the group one more time the “Trinity Blindspot” you identified four weeks ago. Have the blinders come off over these past few weeks? If so, how can you continue to grow closer to God and eliminate that blindspot altogether? If not, why do you think that is and how can the group help you get there? <sup>10</sup>

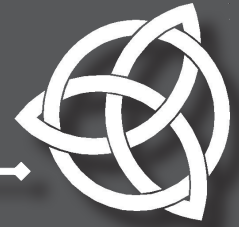
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## Caring Community

- » **SHARE** with the group how God has been speaking into your life or challenging you this past week (this may be as a result of the sermon or something in your personal journey). Is there anything from this week's LifeGroup discussion you need to work on?
  
- » Are there any **NEEDS** you have coming up in your life that the group can help you with (this may include spiritual needs, life needs, pretty much anything...)
  
- » **PRAY** for one another. Share your requests and praises with one another. Write them down here. If you commit to praying, please be sure you do it...
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## Leader Guide

### REMINDERS:

- » You're not expected to use every question or prompt on the study guide (it's not designed to run through everything). Pick what works, modify and ignore what doesn't, and make it fit your group and your style. You might even want to change the order around and/or come up with your own stuff! Use this as a tool not a rule book.
- » This curriculum is intended to encourage discussion—it is not intended to be an in-depth, point-by-point study guide. There may be times that the discussion takes you somewhere you didn't expect or don't like. Don't be afraid to bring the discussion back on point and table something for later if needed (or let the discussion go if that's where the Spirit is leading). Encourage discussion and push/challenge your group when you feel they need it.

### LEADER NOTES:

1. We're asking this question to frame the idea of the Holy Spirit guiding us in our spiritual and daily lives.
2. Of course it's important to understand that the Holy Spirit is fully God. One of the primary reasons is because we are to be led and guided by the Spirit; if He's not God then we are being led by something other than God...and that's not good! Make sure everyone in your group understands the importance of accepting the Spirit as fully God before you move on. Allow for some open discussion here.
3. This is the same Spirit that we read about in the New Testament. God has not changed and He never will. It's exciting to realize that the concept of the Trinity is nothing new...God has always been communal and He made us in His image.
4. Jesus makes this statement both for the disciples (who had gotten used to having access to Jesus 24x7) and for us. We aren't alone. Jesus sent His Spirit to guide and direct us...to be God's active presence in our lives. Jesus says that the Holy Spirit will be our guide, our helper, our counselor, our advocate (all of this represented by the word "Paraclete"). He also says the Spirit will teach us truth and will convict us of our sin.
5. I encourage you to do your own word study on the term "Paraclete" that Jesus uses to describe the Holy Spirit. It is a legal term with complex meaning, including: someone who pleads the case or cause for someone else, an aid or helper, and an intercessor. The Spirit is clearly on our side. He points out our sin only so that we will recognize it and turn to God.
6. Refer to the sermon notes for more detail on this question. Hopefully you and several in your group took some good notes here to aid the discussion. Try to focus on the role(s) that challenges your group the most. Don't be afraid to discuss the tough stuff.
7. It may be difficult for the group to come up with practical examples here. Try doing some brainstorming and asking for examples (good and bad) from the group: What has worked for them? What hasn't worked? There is an aspect of needing to listen and hear in order to be led by the Spirit. This may sound too "mystical" but it's still important. Sometimes we just need to slow down, get quiet, and listen (within our spirit). **PSALM 46:10**
8. The main point here is that all Christ followers should be serving others. We aren't talking about serving the **church**, but about making a real, practical difference in someone's life. Don't be afraid to push a little on this point and get specific. Challenge each other to pick up the ball and start serving. Hold each other accountable. Serving doesn't always look like what we think it looks like (youth, children, worship team, teaching). Encourage some brainstorming for the group here. What are they passionate about? What are they good at? How can they use that passion and skill to serve others (think outside the church)?
9. This might be uncomfortable at first, but give it a shot. Remember, you're still praying to God. And encourage the group to spend some time in quiet reflection, meditation, and listening. Discuss why it's hard to do this in our culture. Share ideas about how you can be still and listen better. Don't be afraid to ask the group if anyone heard something (but don't be surprised if nobody speaks up).
10. Four weeks isn't a long time, so don't expect that everyone will have had a major breakthrough (but some will have). Encourage the group (and individuals as necessary) to continue their journey into a deep relationship with every person of the Trinity. Just because the series is over doesn't mean we should stop the process God has started.