



HELP IS HERE

HELP IS HERE - HIS PURPOSE | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (Week #2)

GET STARTED

- In his sermon this weekend, Jacob shared stories of how he responded to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and offered to pray for a friend or help out a stranger only to have those offers be rejected. **Whether it was a prompting of the Holy Spirit, something you thought God wanted you to do, or just your own inclination, have you ever experienced rejection when you've tried to do something good or help out a friend? How did that make you feel? Did that stop you from offering help to that person or others in the future?**

TAKE IT IN

- **What encouraged and/or challenged you from the message this week? Why?**

TALK IT OVER

Read John 14:25-27

- Here we read where Jesus promises that, when he departs, God the Father will send us the Holy Spirit. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit, the “Advocate” and says that he will “teach” us and “remind” us everything Jesus taught us. **When you hear the word “advocate”, what do you think? How do you define this word? Does Jesus saying that the Holy Spirit will “teach” and “remind” us differ from how you normally define an advocate?**
- Jacob gave us the original Greek word “paraclete”, which is used in this text for the Holy Spirit. A deeper dive into this word reveals that it can be not only translated as “advocate”, but “counselor” or “helper” as well. **Can you describe a time in your faith journey when you felt the Spirit counsel or help you? How did you know that this was from the Holy Spirit and not just your own strength?**

Read Galatians 5:22-26 NLT

- This portion of Scripture gives us what is known as the “Fruit of the Spirit”, which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Jacob encouraged us to use these as a benchmark to know if we are truly walking in step with the Holy Spirit. **Which of these would you say are positively demonstrated in your life? Which is an area you need to grow in?**

Read Galatians 5:17-21 NLT

- These are the verses of Scripture that precede the “Fruit of the Spirit” and contain a long list of how people can and often do act when they follow their sin nature, which is opposite what the Spirit wants. Some of the attitudes in this list most would agree are wrong (sexual immorality, lustful pleasures, drunkenness, wild parties). Some may be difficult to understand in our 21st century context (impurity, sorcery). Others we can see all around us today (hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, division). **Which of these do you think are most prevalent in society today? If you are comfortable to share with others in your group, which would you say can be a struggle for you? How can you best put some of these negative attitudes behind you?**
- In this “Help is Here” series, this week’s sermon was entitled “His Purpose”. Jacob described the Holy Spirit’s purpose by saying that He “reveals Jesus to us so that we can become more like Him”. **In what ways does the Holy Spirit reveal Jesus to us? In what ways has the Holy Spirit helped you become more like Jesus?**
- Jacob emphasized that the Holy Spirit is not just an abstract force but a personal being with whom we can communicate and build a relationship. **What does it mean for the Holy Spirit to be a 'person' that we can have a relationship with? How can you approach your relationship with the Holy Spirit in a more personal way?**

LIVE IT OUT

Jacob encouraged us this past weekend to continually “check the fruit” in our lives to determine how closely we are living in step with the Holy Spirit. **In your prayers this week, ask the Holy Spirit to help you with the “fruit” (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) you would like to see grow in your life.**

Memorize:

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever.”

John 14:15-16 NIV