

# WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

## INTRODUCTION

Today we start a journey as an Action Group of understanding about the Holy Spirit. But first, we've been together for a few weeks now. Share a highlight so far about Action Group. How has it been making a difference in your life at university?

## THE PROMISE:

### Acts 2:38-39

*Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, 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. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."*

- The Holy Spirit is described as a gift and a promise for us who follow Jesus. What do you know about the Holy Spirit?

## LEADER'S NOTES:

Remember to book or think of the space you will meet. Notify students in your AG of the time and place. Pause, take a moment right now to pray for your group - commit it to God!

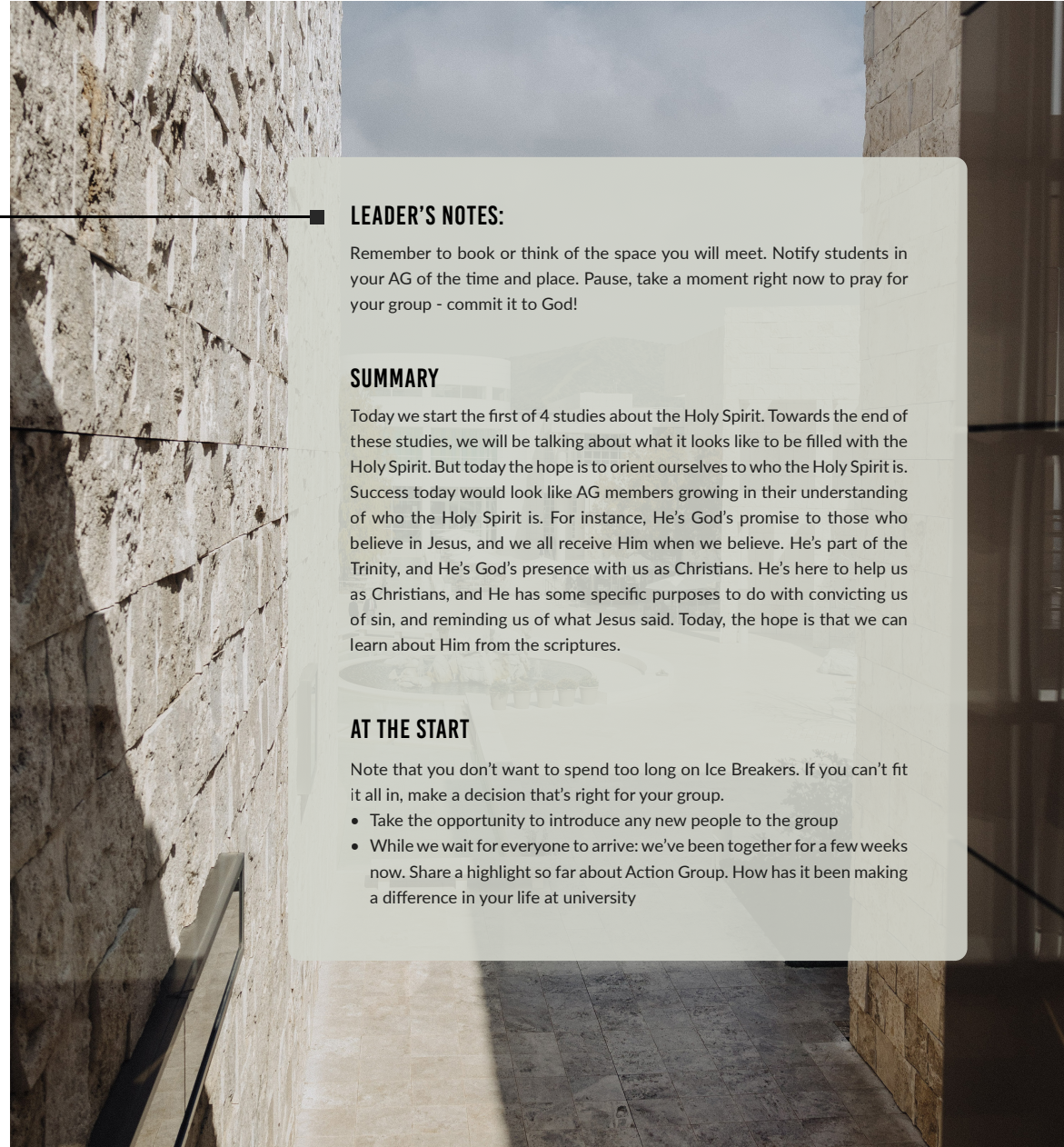
## SUMMARY

Today we start the first of 4 studies about the Holy Spirit. Towards the end of these studies, we will be talking about what it looks like to be filled with the Holy Spirit. But today the hope is to orient ourselves to who the Holy Spirit is. Success today would look like AG members growing in their understanding of who the Holy Spirit is. For instance, He's God's promise to those who believe in Jesus, and we all receive Him when we believe. He's part of the Trinity, and He's God's presence with us as Christians. He's here to help us as Christians, and He has some specific purposes to do with convicting us of sin, and reminding us of what Jesus said. Today, the hope is that we can learn about Him from the scriptures.

## AT THE START

Note that you don't want to spend too long on Ice Breakers. If you can't fit it all in, make a decision that's right for your group.

- Take the opportunity to introduce any new people to the group
- While we wait for everyone to arrive: we've been together for a few weeks now. Share a highlight so far about Action Group. How has it been making a difference in your life at university



## WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

We looked at what John taught us with regards to assurance of our standing with God last week. Now let's see what he's got to teach us about the Holy Spirit this week. At each passage, discuss what you learn about the Spirit.

### John 14:16-18

*16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*

### John 14:25-26

*25 "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

### John 16:7-8

*7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...*

### John 16:13-15

*13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

From these passages we learn that the Holy Spirit is our helper, who will be with us forever, and will even live in us. He is there to lead us to the truth. He will remind us of all that Jesus taught, and will convict us of our sin, of God's righteousness, and the coming judgement. He is sent by God to us, and it's better that He's with us than Jesus himself!

- Which of these things about the Holy Spirit is the most meaningful to you and why?

## HELPFUL ANSWERS

### John 14:16-18

He is given by the Father. He is coming as "another helper" (note that the first helper implied here is Jesus). He will be with us forever. He is the Spirit of truth. He will be with us, and will even live in us. The people of the world (who don't believe in Jesus) cannot receive Him. Note that as we will learn, He only comes to those who believe in Jesus).

### John 14:25-26

Once again He's the Helper. He will teach us all things. He's sent by the Father in the name of Jesus. He will remind us of all the things that Jesus taught us. i.e. His ministry is deeply intertwined with the life and teaching of Jesus.

### John 16:7-8

It's actually better for us that Jesus goes away so that we receive the Holy Spirit. Jesus also sends him to us (not just the Father). This next part is the evangelistic mission statement of the Holy Spirit: He comes specifically to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgement. That is, He's come to make people aware of their sin who do not believe in Jesus (v9), He's come to reveal to them what true righteousness is because we won't have Jesus showing us the righteousness of God anymore (10), and He's come to warn them of the coming judgement that is certain, so that they might repent and not be judged alongside Satan.

### John 16:13-15

This talks about His ministry to believers who follow Jesus (v12-13). He's not here to speak for Himself. He's revealing the things of Jesus and the Father to us.

## OTHER THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE SPIRIT

Read the following and note what you learn

### Genesis 1:1-2

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

He is God's Spirit

### Matthew 28:19

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

He's part of the Trinity

### 2 Corinthians 3:17

*17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*

The Holy Spirit is God

### Romans 8:9

*9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.*

Only believers have the Spirit

### Ephesians 1:13

*13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,*

We receive the Spirit when we believe

The truth is, when we believe in Jesus, we begin a relationship with God. The way that works is that God sends His very Spirit to live with us and be in us. If we take the bible at its word, God's Holy Spirit has been sent as our Helper! Can you believe that? The Creator of the universe has come to help us! Next week, we will spend more time learning about what the Holy Spirit does in us. But for now, isn't it great to know that God Himself is with us, as believers, through His Holy Spirit?



### **ACTION STEPS: PRAYING FOR HELP**

Put a reminder on your phone for a time each day reminding you to pause and ask for the Holy Spirit to help you with what's going on in your life.

### **PRAYER**

Spend time now thanking God for the gift of His Spirit in our lives, and asking the Spirit to help us in any way that you need right now.

#### **Campus Notices**

Check with staff for weekly or one off events that need to be announced.