

Personal Liturgy

Week 12: Why “Parakletos” Should Be Your Favorite Word

Primary Passages: John 14:16-20, John 14:25-29, John 15:25-27, John 16:4-14

“The Holy Spirit would be in us just what Jesus was to his disciples: their counselor, their guide; their help. By the Holy Spirit, Jesus continues the work he started in his ministry here... The Spirit inside of us is greater than even Jesus beside us.”

- J.D. Greear

Catch Up On Life:

This is when we update each other on the day in and day out happenings of our lives. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we're praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

- Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus at work in the last week (in you personally or in the people God's put around you)?
- What (if any) life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)?

Pray: Thank God for all His goodness in our lives, and pray for those who are hurting.

Review the Mission:

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us as ambassadors of reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

Proactive Mission:

- Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (Neighborhood, STC partner or specific demographic in Columbia)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve and build relationships with this group?

Reactive Mission:

- Who in your life can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that shows spiritual interest or is hurting and could use some love from our group?
- Are there any rhythms already planned, or an extra rhythm we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?

Pray: Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Pray for our people by name, for their needs, and for the Lord to soften their hearts towards the gospel.

Sermon Discussion:

God uses His Word to help us know Him, to equip us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a LifeGroup throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25)

Parakletos: [para-klay-toss] The Holy Spirit is ‘called alongside in aid’ by Jesus to be with us always and to be our Helper.

Read and Recap: Have someone read John 16:4-14, and briefly recap this past week’s sermon.

- Why is Jesus adamant that it was better for His Spirit to live inside of us than for Him to live beside us? Is it hard for you to agree with Him on this? How so?

Read John 14:25-29. In the past weeks’ challenge, what has stood out to you as you’ve been reading and meditating on Scripture? (Jesus says God’s Spirit is the one who helps us by illuminating God’s Word to us.)

- What are the normal, everyday parts of your life where you’re most tempted to act like God is not with you? In which aspects of life -- mentioned at the end of the sermon -- are you the most likely to forget that God’s Spirit is with you?
- Where are you most actively aware of God’s Spirit working in your life? What would change if you were more aware that the Holy Spirit was with you throughout your day?

Pray: Pray that the Holy Spirit would stir in us a sense of wonder and enchantment towards God and His Word.

Engage the Heart:

Jesus calls us to walk in the light as we follow Him, confessing our sins to God and each other. God’s Spirit works through our humility, honesty and community to spur us on toward repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

- What has your time in God’s Word looked like this week? Have you seen any direct effects on your spiritual and emotional health?
- What sin and struggle do you need to confess? How does the good news of Jesus’ death and resurrection relate to your sin? (Take time to speak gospel truth to each other.)
- What steps of repentance do you need to take? How can we help you walk in repentance?

Pray: James tells us that a community that regularly confesses sin and prays for each other will see a lot of healing. Confess your sins in prayer and pray for each other.