

Week Twelve: "Grieving the Holy Spirit"

Day One: "Third Person of the Trinity"

Read: Ephesians 4:30

Reflect: Do you ever pray to the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?

Dig: Which personal pronouns are used of the Holy Spirit in:

John 14:17-

John 16:13-

Look up these passages on the Holy Spirit. What characteristics are mentioned?

I Corinthians 2:11-

Romans 8:27-

I Corinthians 12:11-

Acts 13:2-

John 15:26-

Apply: Since the Holy Spirit is one of the persons of the Trinity, in the space provided here, write out a prayer to the Holy Spirit in which you recognize his personhood and also ask forgiveness for grieving him.

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Day Two: "What Makes the Holy Spirit Weep"

Read: Ephesians 4:30

Reflect: When have you brought grief and tears to someone who loves you?

Dig: Since we must always pay attention to the context in order to know what a certain text means, what does the context tell you about how to answer the question of what grieves the Holy Spirit? (See Ephesians 4:26-29)

If we persist in grieving the Holy Spirit, what could it lead to? (see I Thessalonians 5:19 for a biblical answer)

Do sins which break community especially grieve the Holy Spirit? (See Ephesians 4:3)

Apply: Since we can usually sense what grieves those whom we love and who love us, how have you grieved God's Spirit recently? Hint: think of ways you have contributed to disunity.

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Day Three: "Sealed by the Spirit"

Read: Ephesians 4:30

Reflect: How does the Holy Spirit assure you of God's love? He is called "Comforter." How has He comforted you?

Dig: The Holy Spirit is said to have "sealed us for the day of redemption."

According to Ephesians 1:13-14 what do you learn about the Holy Spirit's role in our salvation?

Since the Holy Spirit graciously sealed (guaranteed) our salvation, what is grieving him a sign of in our hearts?

Apply: In this space, write out a prayer, asking forgiveness of the Holy Spirit for acting in an ungrateful manner toward him -- not being thankful to him for guaranteeing our salvation -- and using our tongues in ways which deny what he did.

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Day Four: "the Shy Person of the Trinity"

Read: Ephesians 4:30

Reflect: Are you more of a Jesus -- Christian (focused on the second person of the Trinity) or more of a Spirit -- Christian (focused on the third person of the Trinity)? Why?

Dig: Since the Spirit is called Holy (pure), why is the attitude of verse 29 especially grievous to the Spirit?

According to John 14:26, what is the job of the Holy Spirit?

What does John 15:26 say about the role of the Spirit?

Why might these passages cause some Bible scholars to describe the Holy Spirit as the "shy" person of the Trinity?

Apply: If we are going to act like the Holy Spirit, we will also deflect attention from ourselves to Jesus. How could you lift up Jesus today and downplay your own role?

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Day Five: "Lectio Divina"

Read: Ephesians 4:30 "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

Lectio divina (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

-- **reading:** you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your

consciousness: after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.

-- **meditation:** you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life: write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.

-- **prayer:** you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer -- thanksgiving, humility and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.