

## **Life Group Leader Handout**

**March 1, 2015**

**Message: "A Firm Foundation For Our Faith - Part V"**

### **Scripture—John 14:16-21**

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. 19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

### **Main Idea— The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit!**

1. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity.

A. The Personality of the Holy Spirit

B. The Deity of the Holy Spirit

2. The Work of the Holy Spirit

A. In Relation to the World

B. In Relation to the Believer

3. Sins against the Holy Spirit

### **Application—**

1. What is being filled with the Holy Spirit? Have you surrendered to the Holy Spirit?

2. After hearing this message, how has your view of the Holy Spirit changed?

## Is Our Group Healthy or Unhealthy?

I received a good question from one of our small group leaders today. I think this is a critical question that many leaders and groups are asking: “What are the top three things a healthy small group should be doing? Shouldn’t it be more than just social, or just project driven?”. I had to think for a while before I responded, and I’ve written out my conclusions here. Below are the top seven hallmarks of a healthy small group. Note that the first four deal with how a group should be focused and organized; the last three deal specifically with what they should do.

**Christ-Centered.** Jesus is the real group leader. Small groups meet in his presence and power, and they meet for his purposes. (Matthew 18:20)

**Healthy, Growing Leaders.** The small group leader is growing in his or her faith by being involved in daily disciplines such as Bible study and prayer. (1Corinthians 11:1)

**Core Team.** The group is led by a core team of between two and four members who share leadership. No one leads alone. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

**Goals and Plans.** The group has a plan that includes a mission, goals, expectations, ground rules and so on. (Proverbs 16:30)

**Connecting with One Another in Authentic Biblical Community.** The group meets regularly and consistently, does life together outside of meetings, and regularly prays for and ministers to one another. Group members participate by taking on different roles and demonstrating shared ownership. (Acts 2:42-47)

**Knowing God.** Group members are intentionally looking for discipleship. The group regularly engages in Bible study and application. (Colossians 2:6-8)

**Serving Others.** Christ’s mission (Matthew 28:18-20) is the small group’s mission. The group regularly prays for their lost friends and is sharing their faith with others. The group is intentionally open to new people. The group is serving others together and/or individually, or has a plan to do so if the group is new. (Colossians 4:5-6).

Based on all of that, the result (or “fruit”) of a healthy small group is a collection of Christians who are: growing, reaching out, reproducing.

Some of those probably sound obvious. A small group by definition contains people connecting with one another (5); growing in their relationships with God through a variety of means (6); and serving others, which includes being open to new people (7). A healthy small group should certainly strike a balance between those three things over time.

But don’t overlook hallmark number one. It is the most important one. A healthy, life-changing group focuses primarily on Jesus. Groups should focus on him and his real presence with them when they meet. It’s his power that transforms lives, brings healing to hurting people, and moves a group to make an impact on others.