

## STUDY GUIDE

**Monday, October 26 – Read John 16:7** Should I stay or should I go? Have you ever heard that song? It's a song by a band named *The Clash* that came out in the '80s. The song is all about a guy trying to figure out which option would be better: should he stay where he's at, or should he go? In John 16:7, we read a situation that sounds very similar. Jesus had just told His disciples that it would be best if He went away, because then the Holy Spirit would come to them. But the disciples obviously didn't want Jesus to leave. Try putting yourself in their shoes for a moment. Imagine leaving everything behind for Jesus, following Him for three years, and believing He was the Son of God. If He told you that it was better for you if He left, how would you feel? Confused. Concerned. Lost. Jesus knew that His disciples would feel those things. But He still told them that it would be better for Him to leave. Why? Because then the Holy Spirit would come to them. The disciples would go from having God the Son walking *BESIDE* them to having God the Spirit *INSIDE* of them. And Jesus promised you the same thing. As a Christian, you have God living inside of you. Today, how can you thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit?

**Tuesday, October 27 – Read John 16:8-11** When's the last time you tried to tell someone about Jesus, to maybe convince them of who He is and what He means to you? Maybe you never have because you feel like you need to have all of the answers, you don't want things to get uncomfortable, or you don't really know how to explain things. If you have felt that before, it's okay. Sometimes, we put too much pressure on ourselves when it comes to convincing people about Jesus. Jesus knew that we might feel overwhelmed in these situations, and so He gave all of us the solution. In John 16:8-11, Jesus explained to His disciples that the role of the Holy Spirit would be to convict people concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment. Here's what this means for you today: the Holy Spirit is the only one who can change someone's heart and mind. It's not on you to do that. Your role is to share the gospel with people, to live as Jesus lived, to love as He loved, and to depend on the power of the Holy Spirit to do the rest. That should bring you so much peace—knowing you don't have to have all the answers to tell people about Jesus. What has been keeping you from sharing the gospel, and how can you trust that the Holy Spirit will change hearts and minds?

**Wednesday, October 28 – John 16:12-13** Have you ever had a friend share something with you that just made you extremely sad or angry? Maybe they told you that they were moving away, or that they had a really bad disease that didn't have a cure. When you get news like that, anything they say right after is really hard to hear. You don't want to hear about where they're moving to. You can't bear the thought of them dying. When you hear something you don't want to, your heart can feel overwhelmed and it can become hardened. This is exactly where the disciples found themselves. In John 16:12, Jesus knew that the disciples were hurting and confused because of what He had just shared with them. He knew that they would not be ready to hear more truth about what was to come. Therefore, in the very next verse, Jesus promised them that the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit, would reveal to them the truth that they were not quite yet ready to hear. Today, the Holy Spirit brings the truth about Jesus to all of our hearts. No matter how hard a heart may be, the Spirit is powerful enough to change it. Jesus' love, power, truth, grace, and mercy know no obstacles. Has your heart been hardened because of something that has happened in your life? Pray and believe that the Holy Spirit can and will bring the power of the gospel to your heart and change your life forever. Do you believe that the Holy Spirit can change someone's life?

**Thursday, October 29 – John 16:13-15** Have you ever taken a tour? Maybe you took a tour of an old monument, of a new stadium, of your school, or your parents' work. One of the great things about tours is that they come with a tour guide. The tour guide's job is to make sure you know and understand everything about what you are seeing. They have trained for this, are knowledgeable about what they're showing you, and can be trusted to answer any questions you may have. In John 16:13-15, Jesus explained to His disciples how the Holy Spirit would function. He explained that everything that the Holy Spirit would share and reveal to the disciples would be not from His own authority, but from the Father. The Spirit would bring glory to Jesus and to the Father by revealing and validating everything Jesus had ever said and done. The only reason that the Holy Spirit is able to do all of this is because He is God, which means that His information is directly from the source. He is knowledgeable and able to speak truth into your life. The Holy Spirit is the tour guide of your spiritual life. So instead of trying to live life by yourself, or trying to figure out how to be a

Christian on your own, what if you relied on the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your life? In what area of your life can you ask the Holy Spirit to lead you?

**Friday, October 30 – Read John 17** Notice this is the real “Lord’s Prayer.” The last thing on Jesus’ mind and heart before he was arrested was 1) His impending sacrifice 2) His disciple and 3) Us (believers). And notice his last words of his prayer: ...“that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” We know that when we pray anything in the will of God it will be answered. Since we know that Jesus’ prayer WAS in the will of God, this prayer has been answered. We have to be open – that is the part we play in God answering this prayer. Jesus has prayed for you (and still intercedes for you). Allow God to work in and through you.

*Adapted from: [www.southeastchristian.org](http://www.southeastchristian.org)*