

## SAC Small Groups Discussion Guide – Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

This guide comes with the expectation that even if someone has missed the Sunday service, they have watched the sermon before coming to their small group.

### Fellowship Time

Make sure to have time where people can chat and catch up. This section could include a dinner together, having a potluck, preparing snacks, etc. The key to this section is make people feel welcomed and seen.

### Read the Scripture & Overview Aloud Together

This section contains the text and a brief summary of the sermon that was preached on Sunday. It will have the main point explained as a way to help those remember the sermon. This is not an in-depth overview because the expectation is that everyone will take the time to listen to the sermon. Make sure to read this aloud for everyone to hear.

### **Text**

*John 15:26-16:15*

*26 “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. 27 And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.*

*16 1 “All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. 2 They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. 3 They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. 4 I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, 5 but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ 6 Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. 7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.*

*12 “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”*

### **Overview of Sermon**

*This week we continued our series in the book of John and leaned into the theme from the text of the Holy Spirit, the promised and present one. Jesus continues to teach his disciples about the Spirit who is to come when Jesus departs back to the Father. Paraclete is the Greek Word for Advocate or the Holy Spirit. The Advocate comes to witness about the true reality of Jesus in and through followers of Jesus. Jesus tells his followers about the hatred of the world and the coming of the Holy Spirit so that they can persevere and not fall away from their faith in Jesus. The disciples would soon face being expelled from the synagogues which was a loss of their place of worship and their community. Jesus' departure from them is critical so that the Holy Spirit can come, indwell in the life of a disciple, and be their Advocate for the trials and tribulations ahead*

*The Spirit is necessary to come to convict the world of its guilt and sin in the hope that people will repent of their sin and turn to God for forgiveness/healing. Disciples of Jesus play a central role being empowered by the Spirit to live a life in growing conformity to Christ that the same impact on the world is observed as when Jesus did his ministry in the world. Jesus has more to say than the disciples can handle, but the truth from the Father, for Jesus speaks only what the Father has made known to him, and the Holy Spirit will receive from Jesus what is to be made known. The witness of the Advocate is always about Jesus – his truth in word, in deed, and what he accomplished through his death and resurrection.*

*The reality is, we are all in need of an advocate, one who comes alongside to help us. And we are promised an advocate, a perfect one, in the Holy Spirit. He is the one who lives in us and will be with us, our counsellor, advisor, comforter, encourager, strength. He guides us in the way we should go, he empowers us to be witnesses of all that Jesus has done to the ends of the earth, he gives us strength and the power to do what God asks of us, he transforms us to look more and more like Jesus as we follow him. The Holy Spirit bring us life and freedom, and by his power we abound with hope.*

### **Discussion Questions**

These questions are prompts to help the group have meaningful dialogue over the sermon this past weekend. Do not feel the need to ask all these questions. You are more than welcome to create your own questions or mix the questions together.

### **Connection to Other (Icebreaker/Light)**

- What hobby do you wish you had more time to pursue?

### **Connection to Head (Study/Knowledge Questions)**

- Read the passage in John. What does this passage teach us about the Holy Spirit and His role in our lives?
- How does this passage fit into the overarching story of God's redemptive work in the world?

### **Connection to Heart (Deeper Engagement)**

- How does understanding the Holy Spirit as our Advocate change the way you approach difficult situations or persecution in your own life?
- In what ways have you personally experienced the Holy Spirit convicting you of sin, and how did that conviction lead you toward repentance and closer relationship with Jesus?

### **Reflect and Discuss the Practice and Prayer.**

This is an opportunity for accountability and formation in your group. Accountability to ensure people are practicing the practices and formation because we believe that these practices will shape and form us into the people that God intended us to be. Take time to practice this together and reflect on each person's experience of these practices.

**Practice:** Set aside time (15 minutes or longer) to prayerfully reflect on these prompts.

- Reflect on the promise of the Holy Spirit and all that he does in and through us.
- Where have you seen evidence of his work and presence in your life in the past?
- Where do you see him at work in your life now?

\*Take time in your small group to have people reflect and journal these questions out. Feel free to split off into pairs and pray for each after this practice.

### **Prayer:**

Jesus, we thank you for sending the Advocate, the Holy Spirit to us. We are so grateful that you do not leave us, but that we have your presence and guidance in our lives as we follow you each day. Holy Spirit, we invite you to work in our lives. Open our eyes to see the truth. Draw us to a deeper walk with Jesus. Give us your strength and power when we need it most and give us the words in each moment to share about what Jesus has done for us. When we feel alone, please remind us that we are beloved and known. May our lives glorify Jesus as you guide us into his truth.

Amen.

### **Prayer Together.**

Take some time to pray with each other. This is not a time for gossip or to be cynical, this is an opportunity to share with each other our burdens, to celebrate and praise God together, and to pray expectantly that God would move.