

DISCIPLES ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT

YEAR: TRANSFORM / FOCUS: LIVING IN PURSUIT / SERIES: DISCIPLE

BIG TRUTH: DISCIPLES ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT

Acts 16:6-10; Galatians 5:18

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 8:14

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."

BIG IDEAS

- The Spirit is our Helper.
- The Spirit guides us in all truth.
- The Spirit is with us and will never leave us.

BIBLE PASSAGE: JOHN 14:15-17, 26

TRANSFORM - LIVING IN PURSUIT

In High School, the Transform Year is an exploration of what it looks like to have transformed influence as we seek to live for a Kingdom that is greater than our own. First, we recognize that we will never be transformed if we are not Living for Jesus. To do this, we must first know who Jesus is by looking at who He says He is (John 8:58), and then look at what the Bible says about how in Him, we live by faith (James 1:6). Next, we recognize that to have transformed influence means that we must live as disciples in pursuit of Christ and His Kingdom over ourselves and our own kingdoms.

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- Jesus is the only source of life
- God's Word is authoritative and applicable for all of life
- To follow Jesus is to pursue a life of sacrifice and surrender



Every student should feel...

- Thankful for the triune God who is worthy
- Convicted of how deception has led them to disobedience
- Responsible to use their influence to live for Jesus alone



Every student should strive to...

- Read through the gospel of John
- Memorize the Bible verse each week
- Implement regular rhythms of prayer and fasting throughout the semester



Every student should want to...

- Pursue obedience even when faith is a struggle
- Grow in living in step with the Holy Spirit
- Live their lives to glorify God the Father

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 8:14*"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."***Disciples are connected to Jesus by the Spirit.***"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God."*

- To be a son or daughter of God is to be connected to Him. We become His sons or daughters when we are redeemed by Him. When we are redeemed by Him, we are His disciples. This life we live following Him results in our becoming more and more like Jesus.
- In order for us to do that, we must be connected to Him and this happens by the Spirit. At salvation, people receive the Holy Spirit. He comes to live inside of them, connecting them to Jesus and working inside of them to guide them to obey God and His Word. This is how we grow to be more like Jesus.

Disciples use the Spirit in their daily lives.*"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."*

- Those who follow Jesus use the Spirit to guide their lives. They do this because they want to obey Him and God's Word. In order to obey God's Word, we need the Spirit's help.
- Believers receive the Spirit to help us serve and live for God. Disciples use the Spirit daily. They do not ignore the leading of the Spirit. Disciples are sensitive to and submit to the guiding of the Spirit in their daily lives.

Disciples follow the Spirit's leading.*"For all who are led..."*

- A mark of God's people is that they are led by the Spirit. Jesus set this example for all believers. He obeyed the will of the Father and submitted to the leading of His Spirit. As Jesus obeyed the Father, Jesus' disciples are to obey.
- Disciples follow the Spirit and submit to His guidance. Wherever the Spirit leads them, they go. Whatever the Spirit leads them to do, they do. Disciples trust the leading of the Spirit and understand and believe that He is fully God. This enables them to fully obey God's commands and live for His glory daily.

BIG IDEA #1: THE SPIRIT IS OUR HELPER.¹**[THIS]**

Throughout Scripture, we see the idea of a helper. In the beginning, after God creates the first man, He creates the first woman as a helper for the man. God is seen as our help in our times of need and trouble. In John 14:15-17, Jesus promises His followers that He will send the Helper to them when He ascends into heaven. This promise reveals the intimate part that God plays in His people's lives. Though we live in a sinful, broken, and dark world, God has not left His people alone. Even prior to the coming of the Messiah, God has been a help to His people. Being helped and needing help are part of the human condition. To ignore or deny these needs is to deny being human and to allow our pride to keep us from the greatest gift of depending upon God. Just as God looked at the very first man and proclaimed that he needed a helper, we must look at ourselves and understand that we, too, need the Helper that God has given to every one of His people—the Holy Spirit. Acknowledging our need and dependence upon Him is the first step in following in obedience.

[THEREFORE]

Why is it necessary to acknowledge daily that we need the Helper?

We are created to need God and to ignore this need is to ignore Him. We have to first acknowledge this need in order to live for God. Matthew 19:26 shows us that plenty of things are impossible in our power, but not in God's. When we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to walk obediently to God's commands.

[THIS]

In John 14:26, Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will come as the Helper to God's people. God sends the Holy Spirit because we need His help. When we acknowledge our need for help, we can then submit to the Holy Spirit and grow in our understanding of God's Word and truth. Without this help, we cannot understand how to please God or even who He is. We can't even know God without the help of the Holy Spirit. John 16:8 teaches us that it is the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of sin and unrighteousness. We wouldn't even know we are sinners if it weren't for the Holy Spirit. He leads people to God and after they are redeemed shows them how to live for Him. Disciples receive power from the Holy Spirit. They are able to resist the temptation to sin because the Holy Spirit helps them. They are able to grow in righteousness because the Holy Spirit enables them to bear the fruit of His Spirit living inside of them. Without Him, these things are impossible.

[THEREFORE]

How is help from the Holy Spirit different from help from other people?

The Holy Spirit knows us unlike any other person knows us. 1 Corinthians 2:11 tells us that it is the Spirit who knows our thoughts and the thoughts of God. Romans 8:16 and 26 show us that the Spirit helps us in our weakness and tells the world that we belong to God. No person can do these things for us.

What power each day does the Holy Spirit give you to live as Jesus' disciple?

The Holy Spirit helps us know God. Through Him, we grow in our knowledge of who God is and what He expects of us. Acts 1:8 tells us that it is in the power of the Holy Spirit that we are God's witnesses. John 16:13 reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit who helps us know truth.

1. John 14:16: Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit who would be every follower of Christ's Helper.

2. Genesis 2:18: God, in creating the first woman, creates the first marriage and introduces the idea of a helper into human relationships. In this way, male and female reflect the image of the Triune God.

BIG IDEA #2: THE SPIRIT GUIDES US IN ALL TRUTH.³**[THIS]**

A common thought today is that truth cannot be known, or that it changes or is unique to each individual. For the disciple, truth is found in knowing God and His Word. We cannot know this truth without knowing God and having His Spirit as our Helper. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He promised that the Father would send the Holy Spirit to guide us and teach us all things about God. In John 14:15-17 and 26, we see that it is the Holy Spirit who leads us to truth and illuminates Scripture to help us see and understand its truth. We do not have to worry about knowing truth because the Holy Spirit guides us to know it. As we open God's Word and read it, it is the Holy Spirit who shows us what it means. He helps us understand it and even reminds us of what we've learned as we face different situations in life. He is the light that shines on our path in this dark world.

[THEREFORE]

How have you discovered truth and learned how to follow Jesus through His Word recently?

Psalm 119:105 likens the Word of God to a lamp shining on a path in front of us. The Psalmist calls it a light that shows our feet where to walk. This is the Holy Spirit guiding us to know God's Word. Without Him, we could not know this truth. He is the great illuminator.

[THIS]

God never leaves His people. He provides all that they need, and He has given them a perfect Helper in the Holy Spirit. We can know truth and follow it every day because we have God's Spirit inside of us. Whenever we face any idea or new thought in this world that challenges our thinking, we can trust the Spirit to guide us to God's truth. He will remind us of what we've already learned or lead us to truth in God's Word. He guides us along the right path and keeps us following God and obeying His commands. Even as the world around us changes and people exchange what is true for the lies of this world, we can hold fast to what is true because we have the Holy Spirit to show us the way.

[THEREFORE]

What are some lies of this world that you have been tempted to believe? How has the Holy Spirit guided you to truth?

2 Corinthians 11:14 reminds us that Satan is the father of lies and disguises himself as light. We can be tempted to believe his lies. John 17:17 helps us understand that God's truth sets us free from this and the Holy Spirit guides us to this truth.

What are some other sources for truth that you have turned to and found lacking? How have you discovered that they weren't truth?

2 Timothy 2:15 teaches us that disciples should make every effort to know God's truth. We do this by submitting to the guiding of the Holy Spirit. As He guides us to know God's truth, we hide it in our hearts. When we do this, we can resist the temptation to believe lies and we do not look for truth from the world. We know that truth is found in God and knowing His Word.

3. John 14:17: The Holy Spirit illuminates Scripture and teaches us God's truth.

BIG IDEA #3: THE SPIRIT IS WITH US AND WILL NEVER LEAVE US.⁴**[THIS]**

As Jesus prepared His disciples for His departure from this earth, He prepared them for His absence from their daily lives. If we put ourselves in their shoes, we can imagine that Jesus' impending departure would have caused them distress. They had followed Jesus, served Him, watched as He performed miracles, taught many, and loved them perfectly. Now, He was speaking to them of His crucifixion and departure from this world. We can be sure they didn't fully understand what His words meant and perhaps felt some fear and anxiety that He was leaving them, but He reassured them that it was to their advantage that He go away and the Helper come in John 17:7. This was most likely hard for them to imagine. How could it be to their advantage for Jesus to leave them? Jesus did leave and the Father sent His Spirit to live inside of them and inside of every believer since. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, God's Spirit can live inside of His people and He is with His people always. So instead of Jesus being in the flesh with His disciples on earth, the Spirit is with His disciples in every part of the world everywhere always. There is never a time when the Spirit is not with us.

[THEREFORE]

What encouragement do you find knowing that the Spirit is always with believers?

Isaiah 41:10, Joshua 1:9, and Matthew 28:20 show us that God is always with us. This should encourage us in our darkest times. We should remember that as believers, we are never alone. God's Spirit is always with us comforting us and guiding us.

[THIS]

Ephesians 1:13 tells us that it is the Holy Spirit who seals those who are redeemed in God. The Holy Spirit holds believers and keeps them. He is the mark of salvation upon a redeemed person and how the world will know that we belong to God. John 14:18 teaches us that the Spirit cannot be seen by the world and it will not know Him, but disciples will because He will live in us. He will never leave us. Even when we fall to temptation and sin, He will not leave us. Once we are redeemed in God and receive the Holy Spirit, He lives in us. We cannot remove Him and God the Father will not remove Him. He seals us and keeps us as God's redeemed people until the coming of the Lord. This is good news to God's sons and daughters. This doesn't mean that we continue sinning or take advantage of God's grace and mercy. Instead, it means that we should be led by the Spirit and be sensitive to His leading and guiding. He is a gift to every believer.

[THEREFORE]

How does the gift of the Holy Spirit encourage you to live more faithfully for God?

Galatians 5:22-23 lists for us the fruit of God's Spirit and what a faithful life to Him should look like. The gift of the Holy Spirit should encourage us to strive for these attributes. John 6:63 reminds us that the Spirit gives life to us and through Him we can live a faithful life for Christ.

What thoughts or distractions keep you from being led by the Holy Spirit daily?

Loving the world and trying to follow the ways of the world will keep us from being led by the Spirit. 1 John 2:15-17 and James 4:4 remind us of the futility in this.

4. John 14:17: Disciples are never left alone because they have the Holy Spirit inside of them always.