

Leader's Guide

JESUS TEACHES US... ABOUT LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

December 10 2006
John 16:12-15

LEADER'S GUIDE
for small group
discussion prepared
to aid you in digging
deeper and taking to
heart what we are
exploring on
Sunday mornings.



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Overview

Jesus glorified the Father—by putting the Father “on display” in what He said and did. The Spirit, Jesus tells us, will glorify Him—and that is done the same way. The Spirit will put on display, in the hearts and lives of the followers of Jesus, all that Jesus has done and is doing. Jesus will be glorified in us.

Walk it through

We have to open with some discussion of what it means to “glorify” God. Obviously, we don’t *make* God glorious; He *is*! And when Jesus spoke of glorifying the Father, He wasn’t *making* the Father glorious; Jesus was putting the glorious character and person of the Father *on display* through His words and works. When we get to Jesus’ words about the Spirit “glorifying” Him, the same idea holds. Through the Spirit’s ministry in and through us, who Jesus is and what He has done is put on display.

In the selections from John’s Gospel, we get glimpses of the kinds of things that the Spirit does to put Jesus on display. He will teach Jesus’ followers about Jesus’ life and ministry. He will remind them about what Jesus taught. He will “testify” to Jesus, communicating something of the wonder and glory of Jesus to our hearts, and He will speak Jesus’ own words to us so we might know Jesus better.

It is true that the apostles had a unique role in “pouring the foundation” for the church and, because of that, enjoyed what may have been a special relationship with the Spirit. But, for any believer (even us!) to fully come to know Jesus, we will need the Spirit’s help. He is the helper assigned the task of tutoring us in “Jesus.” Let’s not fail to avail ourselves of the Spirit’s marvelous instruction.

Discussion Guide

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Thinking it through . . .

What does it mean to “glorify” God?

In John 17:4, Jesus announces that He glorified the Father by doing what the Father wanted Him to do. He “showed” the Father in His words and works (John 14:10). So, the idea of “glorifying” the Father seems to be akin to “putting the marvelous person of the Father on display.” Keep that in mind as you read what Jesus said about the Spirit’s role in John 16:14.

What does it mean to say that the Spirit will “glorify” Jesus?

When Jesus speaks of “what is mine,” He is referring to all He did and all that He does; everything the Father has “given” to Him. How will Jesus’ followers come to more fully understand Him and His ministry?

Now go back and read John 14:26; 15:26-27 and 16:13. How do these other descriptions Jesus offers of the Spirit’s ministry help fill in the picture of how the Spirit will “glorify” Jesus in the lives of His followers?

What difference does this make?

There was a unique ministry the Spirit had with the apostles, revealing to them and reminding them of the words and works of Jesus to establish the foundation for the church. But, clearly, we are not “on our own” in this day and age in growing to understand Jesus better and relate to Him more deeply. How can the Spirit help you in your relationship with Jesus?