

Small Group Lesson

Theme: Who is God

Lesson Theme: Our Counselor

Warming up...

1. Highs and Lows of this past week?
2. Take Attendance

Going Deeper...

Read: John 16:5-15

1. You can see what's right and what's wrong

- Do you think it's easy or difficult as a teenager to avoid doing the wrong thing—or people who want you to do the wrong thing? Explain.
- Why do we sometimes do the wrong thing—even when we know it's the wrong thing?
- Verse 8 says one of the Holy Spirit's jobs is to convict the world of its sin. What does it feel like to experience that in your life? How do you recognize that it's God asking you to live your life differently?

Thought 1: We live in a culture that is constantly trying to drag us away from what's right and toward what's wrong. The Holy Spirit leads us the other direction—toward what is right. It's what we call “conviction,” that inner sense that we're about ready to say or do something that just isn't right—something that will hurt other people, will hurt us, or will hurt our relationship with God. When we feel uncomfortable like this, it's God the Holy Spirit drawing us away from danger and harm.

2. You can receive wisdom for smart living

- What's the toughest decision you've had to make in the last week or two, and why was it so difficult?
- When you face tough decisions, where do you turn for advice? Why?
- Verse 7 describes the Holy Spirit as a Counselor or Comforter or Encourager or Advocate, depending on which translation of the Bible you're reading. Which of those words are you familiar with, and what do the words mean to you?
- Verse 13 says the Holy Spirit “will guide you into all truth.” What does this phrase mean to you?
- What are some of the possible rewards of “smart living?” What are some of the possible penalties or consequences for, well, “not-so-smart living?”

Thought 2: Life is full of choices, both big and small. God wants you to make wise decisions in all areas because God desires what is best for us. In fact, the Bible says in Psalm 139 that before you were born, God knew all the details of your life. Jeremiah 29 says that God has a plan for you that is good and filled with hope. When we follow where the Holy Spirit leads us, we are able to know and follow that plan, and we can find wisdom for smart living.

3. You can make a difference in this world

- If we're following God's path toward good things and away from bad things, and if we're getting wisdom on smart living, how can this help us have a positive impact on the world around us?
- How do you picture God using you to make a difference in this world? What are some big dreams God has placed in your life?
- Read John 15:26-27. What are some ways you can testify to our world about what God has done and is doing in your life?

Thought 3: Once you choose to follow Jesus, God gives you the gift of the Holy Spirit, who will give you opportunities to tell your friends about Jesus and do things that draw people toward the truth of Jesus. I'd encourage you to pray regularly that God will use you to make a difference in this world—even if that simply means making a difference in the lives of your friends and family members.

Application...

- Go back to Galatians 5:22-23. Which of these Fruit of the Spirit is strongest in your life right now, and which one is weakest?
- Focus on the fruit that is strongest in your life right now. How might God use this to make a difference in the world around you—including in the lives of your friends and family members?
- Did you take a challenge card last week? Did you complete it?

Pray for each other as a Group