

Built On a Rock: The Heart of Christianity from Genesis to Revelation
Living the Message 2022-2023
April 2023 Study Guide for Participants and Facilitators

The Body of Christ: *Church and Holy Spirit* with Pastor Ruud

[Click here to watch the video.](#)

Opening Prayer

Dear God, you have not only redeemed us but drawn us into community and promised to use us to make a difference in the world. Open our ears to hear your invitation, open our eyes to see you working the world, and fill our hearts with the courage to join you in that work. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Focus Statement

The church is the body of Christ, the fellowship of all believers. The Holy Spirit works through the church to tell the good news of what God has accomplished in Jesus and to care for the world God loves so much.

Questions

1. What were your takeaways from Pastor Ruud's presentation? What stuck out to you?
2. Were there some surprises to you in how Pastor Ruud talked about and answered these two questions below?
 - a. "What is the Holy Spirit?"
Presence of God in Christ, dynamic and active here and now and into eternity
 - b. "What does the Holy Spirit do?"
Points to Jesus
Acts as Counselor, Advocate, Helper
Makes the ordinary Holy
Calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy
Delivers the goods!
3. When you think of the Holy Spirit, what images or words come to mind?
4. Think of a time when you felt the Holy Spirit present in your life. How did you see/hear/feel the Holy Spirit?
5. Have you felt the call of the Holy Spirit to help others? How so?
6. Reread the passages Pastor Ruud read about when the disciples were given the Holy Spirit. How do you think the disciples were feeling before and after these events? How would you have felt and reacted?
[Acts 1:4-8](#); [John 20:21-23](#); [Acts 2:1-13](#)

Deeper Dive with Pastor Lose

I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. John 14:25-26

1. Jesus used the Greek word “paráklētos” (to come alongside with us) to help define what the Holy Spirit is and does. Does this definition help make the role of the Holy Spirit more clear to you? How?
2. What is the experience of Holy Communion like for you? Do you resonate with the idea that it is a means for God to show us God’s love and grace? How so?
3. When we link the gift of the Holy spirit to our coming together in church and to participating in the sacraments, how does that make you think about the importance of worship in your life?

Closing Prayer - *The Sending Prayer* used in worship at Mount Olivet:

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Next Month:

The End of All Things: *Eschatology* with Pastor Ruud

In-person presentation **Tuesday, May 2**, 6:30-7:30pm at the Mpls Campus – **Rehearsal Hall** (second floor above where we normally meet)

Video emailed out on or before end of day Monday, May 1

