

# SEEING JESUS IN JOHN

## WEEK THIRTY-ONE: JESUS MAKES A PROMISE

### READING

15 “If you love me, obey my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. 17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

18 No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.

27 “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid. 28 Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again. If you really loved me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father, who is greater than I am. 29 I have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe. John 14 (NLT)

### TEACHING

In this passage, Jesus is preparing his followers for his own departure, but he wants them to know that they don’t have to be discouraged – they are not being abandoned and they are not alone! Jesus promises the Father will send the Holy Spirit. From the words of Jesus, we learn three important things about the Holy Spirit.

- 1) The Holy Spirit is an “Advocate.” An advocate is someone who looks out for you and speaks up for you. The Holy Spirit is always working in ways that help you. He is looking out for you and speaking up for you. How?
- 2) The Holy Spirit looks out for you by leading you into truth. The Holy Spirit helps you understand God’s word and character. The Holy Spirit gives you the desire and ability to read, understand and apply the Scriptures. Without the Holy Spirit, you and I can’t experience the truth that is found in Jesus.
- 3) The Holy Spirit also speaks up for you. To understand how he does that we need to notice that the Spirit is “ANOTHER Advocate.” That means we have a first Advocate; Jesus is the first Advocate. Jesus stands before the Father where he makes the case for you based on what he has done, not based on what you’ve done. The Holy Spirit is different. While Jesus speaks to the Father for your good, the Holy Spirit speaks to YOU for your good. The Spirit is always reminding you of truth and his primary message is: There is a first Advocate! The Holy Spirit wants to point you to Jesus so that you can experience his love and know his truth. You are not alone. You have the Holy Spirit!

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## RESPONSE

### OPENING QUESTION(S):

- How do you feel when someone keeps their promise to you?

### TODDLERS/PRE-K:

- Who did Jesus promise to send to his friends?
- What is something wonderful that the Holy Spirit does for us?

### CHILDREN:

- What promise did Jesus make to his friends?
- What does the word “advocate” mean?
- In what ways is the Holy Spirit our advocate?

### TEENAGERS:

- How does the Holy Spirit lead us into truth?
- Jesus is our advocate and so is the Holy Spirit. How are they different in the ways they advocate for us?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus has not abandoned you?

### ADULTS:

- What do we learn in this text about who the Holy Spirit is and what He does?
- What truths do you need the Spirit to remind you of today?

## PRAYER

*God, thank you that you always look for ways to help us. Thank you for sending our first advocate, Jesus. Jesus, thank you for living in my place and dying in my place. Thank you for being a faithful high priest who prays for me, making a case for me based on your goodness and not my own. Holy Spirit, thank you for pointing me to Jesus. Thank you for leading me into truth. Help me to be more sensitive to your voice and more responsive to your leading. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## NEXT LEVEL (ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL TEACHING)

Often Christians are frustrated by friends and family members who don't share their beliefs and their faith in Jesus. Jesus prepares us with the words, “The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him.” On our own, none of us are looking for God and none of us recognize him. It takes more than your convincing words, your right living and your faithful friendship with those who don't believe. God can use each of those things, but remember that salvation is not natural – it is the most supernatural thing in this world. Be faithful and trust God for the results.