

The Holy Spirit, Evangelism and Missions

By Matt Queen

Pre-Session Assignments

One week before the session, three participants will take the following assignments.

Assignment One

Read Romans 3:23. Prepare to share your answer to the following question: How does this verse describe sin?

Assignment Two

Read Romans 3:10. Prepare to share your answers to the following questions: Outside of Jesus, who is completely righteous and perfect? Who, if anyone, does this verse teach is righteous?

Assignment Three

Read John 12:31–32. Prepare to share your answers to the following questions: In these verses, who is the “ruler of the world”? What will happen to Jesus in order that the people of the world will be drawn away from the “ruler” and drawn to Jesus?

Scripture to Memorize

And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.
John 16:8

Session Goal

Consistent with God’s Word and in the power of the Holy Spirit—by the end of this session, disciples will understand three areas in which the Holy Spirit convicts sinners and will incorporate these areas into their evangelistic presentations.

Matt Queen is the L. R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism ("The Chair of Fire"), associate professor of Evangelism, and associate dean for Doctoral Programs in the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions at Southwestern Seminary. He is married to Hope and has two daughters, Madison and Matia. Matt and his family are members of Cana Baptist Church in Burleson, Texas. He can be followed on Twitter at @DrMattQueen.

It's in the Book

30 minutes

Real-Life Scenario

You meet Kelly at a local coffee shop. From your friendly conversation, you learn that spiritual things (not necessarily Christian) interest Kelly. Sensing an open door, you begin to share Jesus with her. Although you're nervous, you clearly communicate the gospel to Kelly. She listens intently and says she understands what you are sharing with her. However, her response indicates she is grappling with some new concepts and some feelings she's never felt. Kelly explains she feels bad about herself and the things she has done, which on the one hand makes her want to change the conversation. On the other hand, she says she realizes she needs to accept the forgiveness Jesus offers. What could be causing Kelly's inward struggle?

Read John 16:8–11 out loud.

Studying the Passage

When Jesus indicated that the time was nearing for His death, burial, and resurrection, His followers despaired (see John 16:6). Nevertheless, Jesus told them His departure was necessary for the Helper (see John 14:16), or the Holy Spirit, to come in order to live in them (see John 16:7).

Verse 8. He. The Holy Spirit. **when He comes.** The Holy Spirit would come after Jesus, having died and risen from the dead, would return to His Father. From heaven He would send the Holy Spirit to His disciples (see Acts 2:1–4). **convict the world.** The Greek word for *convict* means “to bring to light, or to expose.” Because mankind has violated God's Laws, the Holy Spirit will confront them about the guilt of their disobedience to God.

Verse 9. concerning sin. Sin occurs when anyone acts in opposition to God, His will, or His Word. Here, Jesus explains that the Holy Spirit will convict people of their willful disobedience to God. **they do not believe in Me.** Although each and every sin someone commits separates him from God, the sin of not believing in Jesus prevents anyone from being reconciled to God.

Some people believe Jesus was a man who actually lived in the first century. They may even accept that He was a good teacher or a good person. However, by saying “they do not believe in Me,” Jesus means they have rejected Him. The Holy Spirit's conviction of people who do not believe in Jesus means He will expose that they have not received Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Assignment One Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment One** during the week can now share an answer to the following question: How does Romans 3:23 describe sin?

On Your Own

Many times disciples attempt to convince unbelievers to believe in Jesus on the basis of apologetic arguments and facts alone. In the space below, indicate some of the ways you intend to incorporate a dependence on the conviction of the Holy Spirit as you persuade unbelievers to believe in Jesus.

Discussion Question

How can we specifically incorporate the need for unbelievers to believe in Jesus in our gospel presentations?

Studying the Passage

Verse 10. concerning righteousness. Righteousness stands in complete opposition to sin. It is that characteristic resulting from perfect compliance (from the purest of motives) to God, His will, and His Word. Some people confuse goodness and righteousness. While we can do good things or be considered good by others, we do not always do the right thing. However, God is righteous and cannot do anything but the right thing; thus He is perfect and without sin. **I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer.** Several days after Jesus was raised from the dead, He ascended into heaven back to His Father (see Acts 1:9–11). Since He ascended into heaven, no totally righteous person has resided on earth, even to this day.

Assignment Two Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment Two** during the week can now share answers to the following questions: Outside of Jesus, who is completely righteous and perfect? Who, if anyone, does Romans 3:10 teach is righteous?

Discussion Question

How can we specifically incorporate Jesus' righteousness into our gospel presentations?

On Your Own

In the space below, list some of the areas in which you struggle to reflect Jesus' righteousness and the steps you intend to take to correct them.

Studying the Passage

Verse 11. concerning judgment. Because the world has sinned, and only God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit are righteous, the world must be judged. This judgment will punish those who have rejected God's Son. **the ruler of this world has been judged.** The ruler to whom Jesus refers is the devil, whose name is Satan. He opposes God, as well as His will and His Word. Because he held influence over those who rejected Jesus in that day, he was their ruler (see John 8:44; 13:27).

John describes this judgment in Revelation 20:10–13, another one of the books of the Bible he wrote, as a tormenting lake of fire into which the devil and all his followers will be cast. Because Satan will be judged for his rebellion, those who follow him will likewise be judged.

Assignment Three Feedback

The person who completed **Assignment Three** during the week can now share answers to the following questions: In John 12:31–32, who is the “ruler of the world”? What will happen to Jesus in order that the people of the world will be drawn away from the “ruler” and drawn to Jesus?

Discussion Question

How can we specifically incorporate God's judgment of wickedness and those who practice it in our presentations of the gospel?

Heart and Hands

8 minutes

Read again the **Real-Life Scenario** near the beginning of the lesson. Consider whether your answers have changed during the session.

Be silent for two or three minutes. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice and for the gospel. Adore Him for His glorious reign on the throne of heaven. Then ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you:

1. A way the Scriptures you studied today will change your heart for the glory of Christ.
2. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to stop doing something for the glory of Christ.
3. Or a way those Scriptures will lead you to do something for the glory of Christ.

Write what the Spirit reveals to you below and then be ready to share what you have written with the group.

Since Last Week

5 minutes

Each disciple give the group this update: “In our last session I made a commitment to. . . . I want to let you know how that turned out. On that same issue I think the Holy Spirit now is leading me to . . .”

Grace-Filled Accountability

5 minutes

Disciples can agree on a way to hold one another accountable. Confessing faults with other disciples allows them to offer grace, insights, and encouragement. Even more important is confession to Christ, the source of true forgiveness and cleansing.

Planning for Evangelism, Missions, and Service

5 minutes

Groups of disciples always are making preparations for evangelism, missions, and service. Use these minutes to work on the next plan.

Prayer

7 minutes

Every disciple will pray aloud, offering praise to Jesus, thanking Him specifically for His gracious acts, making heartfelt confession, committing to actions flowing from the Bible study, praying toward evangelism locally and globally, and interceding for others as prompted by the Holy Spirit.

At Home: Nail It Down

The Spirit assists disciples who, through their participation in evangelism and/or missions, verbally share the gospel by convicting unbelievers of the following truths:

They sin by rejecting Jesus (see John 16:9).

Jesus alone is righteous because He is God and has ascended to heaven (see John 16:10).

Satan and all those who oppose and reject Jesus will be judged by God to spend eternity in hell (see John 16:11).

Disciples who consistently practice evangelism are not alone in this task. Jesus has sent His Holy Spirit to assist them.

The Holy Spirit prepares disciples for their evangelistic encounters (Acts 8:27–35; 10:19–22).

He empowers them to witness (Acts 1:8; 6:10). He gives them wisdom (Luke 12:12).

He emboldens them in their witness for Christ (Acts 4:8–13, 29–31).

Also, the Holy Spirit assists disciples in His work toward unbelievers.

He prepares unbelievers to hear and understand the gospel message (Matthew 13:1–9; Acts 10:1–15).

He convicts them (John 16:8–11; Acts 2:37).

He regenerates any unbeliever who will repent of his sin, believe in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, and confess with his mouth that Jesus is Lord (John 3:5–6; Titus 3:5).

The Holy Spirit works among unbelievers to exalt Jesus Christ, but nowhere in Scripture does He do so without a disciple also evangelizing those same unbelievers at some point. Likewise, disciples can be thoroughly trained and equipped to share the gospel, but no amount of training, ability, or practice on their own merit can replace the work of the Holy Spirit in disciples' evangelism.

Fulfilling the evangelistic task of the Great Commission does not rest on what the Holy Spirit does without the cooperation of disciples or what disciples do apart from the aid of the Holy Spirit. Instead, they work together in harmony to reach unbelievers with the hope of Jesus Christ.

Follow up Question

What three elements from John 16:8–11 should be incorporated into the content of your gospel presentations in order to work together with the Holy Spirit's conviction?

The Making Disciples curriculum is a gift from Southwestern Seminary to those who, for the glory of the Father and in the power of the Spirit, will spend a lifetime embracing the full supremacy of the Son, responding to His kingly reign in all of life, inviting Christ to live His life through them, and joining Him in making disciples among all peoples.