

WARM-UP

- Tell us about one item you own that you only use for special occasions or for a specific purpose. Why is it set apart for you?
- How do you think you have grown as a person in the last five years? Share one or two things you have learned along the way that are crucial to who you are today.
- Who is one person you look up to or want to be like? Why?

WORD *“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”* **JOHN 17:17**

As believers, we have received our salvation through the finished work of Christ. God continues to work His salvation in our lives so we can become more and more like Christ. This process of conforming to Christ’s image is called sanctification, and it is what God wants for us. This means we are not becoming more like others, following culture, or seeking for self-actualization. We grow in Christlikeness every day through the Holy Spirit and God’s word. Today, we will understand more about what this means.

1 | The Holy Spirit helps us be like Christ.

¹²"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you." **JOHN 16:12-15**

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, guiding us and leading us to become more like Christ. As our helper and teacher (John 14:26), the Holy Spirit reminds us of what Jesus taught and helps us in our weakness (Romans 8:26). Without the Holy Spirit, we would be alone and powerless in life. According to 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, how does the Holy Spirit transform us to be more into the image of Christ? Share a specific instance explaining this.

2 | God's word sanctifies us in truth.

"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." **JOHN 17:17**

When Jesus prayed for His disciples, He prayed that they would be sanctified in God's word. When we read the word, God speaks to us through the Holy Spirit—He reveals Himself, guides us, and shows us how to live. It is like a mirror (James 1:23–24), a lamp shining in a dark place (2 Peter 1:19), and a sword (Hebrews 4:12). How has God's word convicted and guided you to become more like Christ?

Jesus' prayer in John 17 was for the sanctification of the believers. He then prayed to send the believers into the world (John 17:18) to proclaim and reflect Him. As we become more and more like Christ through the Spirit and the word, may others see Christ in us and through us.

APPLICATION

- Why do you think Jesus prayed the way He did for His disciples? Based on this, how are you to value God's word?
- In what area of your life do you need to be more like Christ? Why do you think this is a struggle for you, and how do you think it can be overcome?
- How valuable is the Holy Spirit to you? What is one thing you will start doing differently in order to rely more on our helper and guide every day?

