

## May 23 – Small Group – Leader’s Guide

### Read John 14:22-31

1. Pentecost commemorates the advent of the Holy Spirit into the lives and bodies of Christians. According to Jesus, the three Persons of the Trinity makes His home in those who love His words. How does the knowledge and reality of the Trinity residing in your body impact your manner of living in this world?

*The radical reality of the triune God residing in our finite bodies is beyond imagining. But it does mean that extraordinary things are possible in our ordinary ways, just as Jesus lived His perfect life in His mortal Body by the indwelling and power of the Spirit of His Father. This reality shapes how we conduct ourselves before others. We are not just image bearers of God but temples and residences of God, in and from which God will transform and renew the world into His new creation.*

2. According to Jesus, the Spirit bears the fruit of love in us: particularly a love for His words or teachings. How do we further display the fruit of our love for Christ's teachings in our homes and city?

*We take seriously the teachings of Jesus Christ. And not only just the ones recorded in the gospels. His words extend and are further explicated in the writings of the New Testament authors. In short, we take seriously the whole Bible. And so, our love for Christ's words and teachings are practically expressed in our reading, study, learning, memorising, meditating, and enacting the words of Scripture.*

3. According to Jesus, the Spirit bears the fruit of peace in us: the shalom and wellbeing of God in our hearts. How do we embody the Trinity's shalom in our daily life and witness in the world?

*We are peacemakers as Jesus taught in the Beatitudes. That is, by the Spirit's power, we are called to create shalom in places where there is no shalom. This is participating in the recreative work of God ever since creation. And that means that we ought to use our speech for peace, our limbs for peace, our resources and time for peace. That is, all that we do and plan to do should be for the flourishing of ourselves and our neighbours and the environment, to the end that people will come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour.*

4. According to Jesus, the Spirit bears the fruit of joy in us: joy that Jesus stands before the Father and is seated at the right hand of His Father's throne. How could we live out and share this joy amidst the lockdown and as we look forward to emerging when things reopen?

*May our Christian lives be marked by absolute and remarkable joy, happiness that is not forced or faked, happiness that is not just smiling through the bad times. This joy is possible even during suffering and death. It's the same joy that Jesus had who endured the cross, despising its shame. We share in Christ's joy in partaking of the ordinary means of grace--in meals, in beverage, in good jokes, in good company, in recreation, in nature, in generous giving without asking anything in return, in giving*

*our bodies and time for the welfare of the needy, delighting in creation while also delighting in the promise of new creation.*