



Notes for Adult discussion groups at
On-Line@9 Worship Service
27 April 2008

Coming Alongside

John's Gospel records words of Jesus to his disciples after the Last Supper, on the evening before his crucifixion. He promises them that after he is no longer with them in person, God will not leave them without support. They will experience the Holy Spirit – not in the same way as at Pentecost (when the disciples will feel the power of the Spirit sending them out with confidence into the world to witness to Jesus's resurrection), but in the sense of the presence of God with and within them.

The original Greek word that John uses to describe the Holy Spirit in this context is *parakletos* (literally 'one who is called beside'). There is no one word in English which adequately translates this Greek word, and different Bible translations use different words in an attempt to convey the meaning: Helper, Comforter, Counsellor, Advocate.

1. Ask the group to sort the pictures on the table according to which of the four words they represent.
2. Assisted by the pictures, encourage the group to explore what each of the words means to them.
3. Read John 14 v 16-18.
4. Revisit each of the four words in the light of the reading: what does each say to us about the nature of the Spirit?
5. Conclude with a time of prayer, offering the chance for people to pray out loud or privately for their own or others' needs, reflecting on the four descriptions of the Spirit.

Based on an idea from © ROOTS For Churches Limited - reproduced with permission.

Visit us at www.christchurchilkley.org.uk



Notes for Adult discussion groups at
On-Line@9 Worship Service
27 April 2008

Coming Alongside

John's Gospel records words of Jesus to his disciples after the Last Supper, on the evening before his crucifixion. He promises them that after he is no longer with them in person, God will not leave them without support. They will experience the Holy Spirit – not in the same way as at Pentecost (when the disciples will feel the power of the Spirit sending them out with confidence into the world to witness to Jesus's resurrection), but in the sense of the presence of God with and within them.

The original Greek word that John uses to describe the Holy Spirit in this context is *parakletos* (literally 'one who is called beside'). There is no one word in English which adequately translates this Greek word, and different Bible translations use different words in an attempt to convey the meaning: Helper, Comforter, Counsellor, Advocate.

1. Ask the group to sort the pictures on the table according to which of the four words they represent.
2. Assisted by the pictures, encourage the group to explore what each of the words means to them.
3. Read John 14 v 16-18.
4. Revisit each of the four words in the light of the reading: what does each say to us about the nature of the Spirit?
5. Conclude with a time of prayer, offering the chance for people to pray out loud or privately for their own or others' needs, reflecting on the four descriptions of the Spirit.

Based on an idea from © ROOTS For Churches Limited - reproduced with permission.

Visit us at www.christchurchilkley.org.uk