



REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message. Sign up to receive the daily devotional email at www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc.

May 4-10, 2026

MOTHER'S DAY

Sermon Title: "Who Is The Holy Spirit?" by Rev. Dr. Peter Moon

Use the space below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals, make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.

Questions for small groups and individual reflection:

1. Often when we think of the Trinity, we think in terms of doctrine and creed. In our reading this week, Jesus speaks in terms of relationship; persons with personality interacting personally. What does that tell you about the character of God?
2. How do you respond to the common evangelical phrase about having "a personal relationship with Jesus"? Does it bother you? Engage you?
3. Jesus speaks about the relationship between loving him and obeying him. Describe that relationship. Is the love of Jesus contingent upon our obedience? Why or why not?
4. What commands is Jesus calling us to obey in this reading?
5. The sermon will discuss the general practice of not referring to the Holy Spirit with the impersonal pronoun, i.e., "it". After reading this passage, can you see why?

Monday, May 4: Read John 14:15-17

This week, we explore our relationship with the Holy Spirit, who for some may be the Person of the Trinity with whom we are the least familiar. Unlike the image of Pentecost with the Holy Spirit appearing as tongues of fire, the image Jesus describes in today's gospel passage is one of an "Advocate," "Counselor," or "Companion," depending on the translation. The literal Greek is "the paraclete" or "one who walks beside." Jesus describes a personal, intimate relationship we can have with the Spirit, for the Spirit "abides with you and... will be in you." (NRSVue). Do we live as ones fully aware of having an advocate, counselor, and companion walking beside us at all times? What changes in our lives when we do?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss what you believe to be the role of the Holy Spirit. What do the various translations teach us about the Holy Spirit?*

Tuesday, May 5: Read John 14:18-21

As we approach Mother's Day this Sunday, many of us may resonate strongly with the word "orphan" used by Jesus in today's passage. We all fear being alone, unprotected, and left to our own devices...at any age. Some of us have been blessed by mothers who consistently served as our earthly protectors, giving us unconditional love, guidance, and support. Some of us have lost them. Some of us never had mothers who were able to fill this role. But we all want this, now and forever, and Jesus is telling us we have it. We have his love. We have the Father's love. We have the Spirit's love...in us, with us, for us. Now. Forever.

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Try something that may feel a little different to you: Pray to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, all at once. See yourself in relationship with the entire Trinity.*

Wednesday, May 6: Read Acts 17:22-31

Some scholars and preachers have argued that the Acts of the Apostles should be called the "Acts of the Holy Spirit," as the Apostles accomplished more through the power of the Holy Spirit than is humanly possible. Paul speaks in today's scripture to the people of Athens – a culture he calls "extremely spiritual" (NRSVue translation, vs. 22). Paul appeals to this "spiritual" side of the Athenians – the part of them that is craving a connection with the divine. Paul then warns against honoring a spirituality of one's own making, crafted by one's own hands for one's own purposes. How does this depiction of "spirituality" differ from Jesus's depiction of the Holy Spirit? What lessons are there for us and our culture today?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss your definition of "spirituality" and how it relates to Jesus's depiction of the Holy Spirit.*

Thursday, May 7: Read 1 Peter 3:13-22

The threads of a life with the Holy Spirit are woven deeply within today's scripture passage. A life in the Spirit is blessed even in the midst of physical danger and suffering. A life in the Spirit is blessed with a good conscience, which guides us. A life in the Spirit behaves in a way that exhibits such hope that people will stop us to ask why. We should be ready to give an answer...but give it with "respectful humility" (verse 3:16 - don't you just LOVE that?!) Let us spend time thinking of the "saints" in our lives who have lived this way. What was different about them? What can be different about us, too?

- **Discipleship and Study Opportunity:** *Think of a living saint who exhibits the gifts of the Spirit described in this passage. Ask them for the reason for the hope they have. Listen with respectful humility.*

Friday, May 8: Read Psalm 121

We end our scriptures this week with the psalm we will use for our Call to Worship this Sunday. We give praise to our Triune God who never leaves us, always protects us, completely knows us, and unconditionally loves us. This is to whom and with whom we belong. This is the relationship to which we are all called and all welcomed. Let us celebrate the abiding everyday power of the Spirit working within us, among us, and through us in community with one another, with the Father and the Son, and with all Creation. Amen.

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Spend time today with your eyes lifted up to the hills.*

Saturday, May 9: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: John 14:16

"I will ask the Father, and he will send another Companion,
who will be with you forever." (CEB)

Sunday, May 10: Let us prepare our hearts and minds with our Prayer of Confession:

Gracious Lord, we gather this morning and confess our desire to keep you at a distance. We like our personal space. And yet, this morning we celebrate your Holy Spirit, who desires to invade that space to be our Comforter and Advocate. Forgive us, O Lord. Help us to lower our walls and invite you into our lives this morning and beyond, for we ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.