

## This Week's Study Guide

February 14th 2021 ~ 6th Sunday after Epiphany

*Simply Complicated*, Rev. Charla Belinski

### Read:

Read John 14:15-27

<sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep<sup>□</sup> my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. <sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” <sup>22</sup>Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?” <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup>Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. <sup>25</sup>“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

### Reflect:

1. Consider a recent interaction with someone (doesn't have to be a romantic partner) when you struggled to act lovingly toward them. This could be someone close to you, a coworker, a stranger. What would you change? How might you do it differently if you were to allow yourself to be guided by God's love?
2. How can you better “hear” the Spirit of God that lives within you (John 14, verse 20-21, 23, and 26)? How might this help you act in a spirit of love rather than impulsive emotions?
3. When do you most feel the Holy Spirit revealed to you (verse 21)?

### Pray:

Try sitting for a few minutes in silence with God. As an invitation to hear God speaking to you, try simply focusing on the word “Love,” and then sit in silence. No petitions or words. Silence. If your mind wanders, come back to your word: “Love.” Stay here in this centering space as long as you can. Don't worry if you can't “hear” God speaking either. Breathe. Be still, and know that God is with you.