



Fall 2025 Chapel Series

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH US

Discussion Guide

(PT. 1) THE CREATIVE SPIRIT OF LIFE

KEY SCRIPTURES: Genesis 1:1–2, 2:7; Psalm 104:27–30

SPEAKER: Dr. Kerwin Rodriguez, Chair of the Pastoral Theology Department, TEDS

I. WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

II. RECALLING THE MESSAGE

- **Message Summary:** Before the stars were hung and the oceans were set in their place, there was a profound stillness. The world was "formless and empty," a canvas of potential veiled in darkness. But even in this void, we find the first glimpse of God's active presence. This sermon delves into the profound imagery of Genesis 1:2, where "the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."
- What stood out to you about the Holy Spirit's role in creation?
- Did the sermon challenge any previous ideas you had about God's creative work and/or images of the Spirit of God hovering over the water?

III. DIVING DEEPER INTO SCRIPTURE

- **Genesis 1:1–2 & 2:7**
 - Genesis 1:1 states that "God created the heavens and the earth." How does the Holy Spirit's role in verse 2, where He "was hovering over the waters," complement or expand upon our understanding of this initial act of creation?
 - This passage reveals the Holy Spirit not just as a part of the Trinity, but as "God with us" from the very beginning. How do these verses show the Spirit's active presence in the very beginning of creation?
 - The phrase "hovering over the waters" is often compared to a bird hovering over its nest, preparing to bring forth new life. What does this imagery suggest about the Holy Spirit's character and His creative role?
 - The Holy Spirit prepares the way for everything that follows. From what you know about the biblical creation story, list some of God's creative acts that follow the Spirit's hovering.

- **Psalm 104:27–30**

- This psalm talks about God sustaining all living things. How does the Spirit connect to this ongoing work of sustaining life?
- How do these verses show that creation is not simply a one-time event, but a continuous, dynamic process?
- The psalmist introduces the concept of death and dependence. All life is contingent on the Spirit's presence. When the Spirit is withdrawn, life ceases. How does this passage highlight the fragility of creation and its complete reliance on the Creator?

IV. PERSONAL REFLECTION & APPLICATION

- How does knowing the Holy Spirit is the "Creative Spirit" impact your view of life, nature, or even your own creativity?
- Considering the Holy Spirit's presence in the very beginning of creation, how can we understand His ongoing creative work in our own lives and in the world today? What does this mean for us personally?
- The same Spirit that breathed life into the cosmos is the one who breathes new life into our own "formless and empty" places, preparing us for God's redemptive work. In what areas of your life do you need the Holy Spirit to "breathe new life" or bring about something new?

V. GROUP PRAYER

- Pray together, asking the Holy Spirit to empower and guide each person.
- Concluding remarks and encouragement.