

## The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me Small Group Guide

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Have you ever been excited to tell someone about a good thing that happened in your life (e.g. a new job, pregnancy, or acceptance to an academic program)? Why were you excited to share this news and who did you tell?
2. What's something that you do simply because you enjoy it, not because you have to do it for some other reason?

**Read the following passages:** Luke 6:14-21; Isaiah 61:1-3.

Throughout the ministry of Jesus there are many quotations and references to the Old Testament prophets. At the inauguration of his ministry Jesus read from Isaiah 61 and proclaimed that this prophetic message had now been fulfilled. This prophecy, originally given to the Hebrew people while living under the threat of surrounding nations, is filled with hope and a promise of a messianic figure who would one day usher in relief, freedom, and healing.

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Isaiah 61:1 says, "*The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.*" Jesus and his followers demonstrated a concern for the materially poor. He also addressed the poverty of our spiritual condition before a holy God and righteous judge—the overwhelming debt of our sins. Do you share a concern for the “poor” around you? How can extend relief to those around you?
2. Read 1 Peter 3:15. If someone asked you what was “good” about the Christian faith what would you say? Are you able to give an explanation for your hope in Christ with clarity, gentleness and respect?
3. Another theme in the prophecy of Isaiah and the ministry of Jesus was “liberty to the prisoners” (Luke 4:18; Isaiah 61:1). In what ways can addiction function as a form of captivity? Do you see any areas of captivity in your own life in which you want to be set free? Explain.
4. Healing was a prominent activity in the ministry of Jesus. Rooted in the biblical view that men and women are both made in the image of God, with unique value as “image bearers,” and in the kindness of God, followers of Jesus prayed for the sick and saw miraculous healings. Christians have also played a significant role in

starting hospitals and giving access to healthcare to people all around the world. Have you ever seen God heal someone in response to prayer? Explain.

5. The actions of extending relief, liberty, and healing described in Isaiah 61 and quoted by Jesus in Luke 6 were all an outflow of being filled with the Holy Spirit. What is your personal experience with the Holy Spirit up to this point in your life? How does talk of “Holy Spirit” make you feel (e.g. excited, curious, nervous)? Have you ever attended a Freedom Empower to have others pray for you to be empowered by the Holy Spirit for life and ministry?

**Pray**