



LEADER'S NOTES

Basics

John 14:17

This week, we are focusing on what it means that the Holy Spirit lives in us.

QUESTION 1 reminds us that this is a teaching from Jesus, and that your group should begin thinking about this topic. This question serves as an introduction; you don't need to spend too much time on it.

QUESTION 2 centers on the fact that the Bible teaches that one role of the Holy Spirit is to strengthen those who follow Christ. It dives into three scriptures that remind us of the strengthening power of God in our lives, and then asks for group members to tell a story about a time they have been strengthened by the Spirit. I imagine at least one of your group members will have a story about being strengthened by God. If not, you can remind them of the example I gave in the sermon. The most important part of the question asks your group to discuss how the Spirit strengthens someone. A good answer might include directly asking the Spirit to strengthen us. We also might release the stressful and challenging circumstances to God and proclaim His strength. We are also strengthened through prayer, and especially worship. There also may be an individual quality to our being strengthened by the Spirit, so for some of your group members, it might be taking time to contemplate God in nature, and for others, it might be praying Scripture over their lives.

QUESTION 3 focuses on receiving guidance from the Holy Spirit. Its construction is very similar to Question 2 — asking for a story, and then asking how we receive guidance from the Holy Spirit. I believe one key to receiving guidance from the Holy Spirit is to ask God direct questions and then pause, wait, and listen.

QUESTION 4 focuses on the Holy Spirit as our comforter. There are two Scriptures to discuss. Please don't skip out on examining these passages. Going deeper into the Word is essential for your group. You can ask gently, "What do you see? What do you think that means?" My goal with this question is to remind your group members that because the Spirit lives in us, strength, guidance, and comfort are continually available through the Holy Spirit.

QUESTION 5 focuses us on how we might encourage more of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and, specifically, what might be suppressing the work of the Spirit.

The two critical questions are:

"How do we become filled with the Holy Spirit?" Some of the answers may be similar to what was stated in question 1. If that happens, it is okay. It is simply reinforcing some of those things.

"What suppresses or quenches the work of the Spirit?" I gave three ideas in the question, but you may also want to add your thoughts.