

Home Group Leaders' Notes

Week of April 27, 2025

A series about the Holy Spirit entitled, "Powerful" (week one)



Jesus promised that He would send "another" helper / advocate to be "with you forever" (John 14:16). Think of that - the Holy Spirit is indwelling us now and will be with us forever! Jesus said this right after saying that He was going back to Father and that His disciples were going to become like Him and were going to continue His mission. Whew! No way that would happen without the Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of comfort, the Spirit of power.

This series is to help us know, love, and follow God as He prepares us for heaven and to fulfill His mission on earth. As we learn about the person and work of the Holy Spirit, I pray that this will encourage God's family to live and love like Jesus and serve as His kingdom agents.

THIS NEW SERIES

I am so joyful about my great niece. She is 17 and has recently chosen to follow Jesus. A week ago, we sat together by a creek and shared about our relationship with God. Since she is a new believer, I encouraged her to keep the main thing the main thing: to know God, to learn all she can about His character, His purposes, and His ways.

In some ways, our new series is about the character of God. So, let's begin with questions about the truth about God and how this impacts us.

Listen well as people share answers to the following questions. This will help you know how to lead and shepherd those in your fold.

- We see in the Bible that God has eternally existed in three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and that He created us "in His image." What are some aspects of people that reflect that God has always existed as three persons?
- When did you first hear or learn about God the Holy Spirit? What were your first impressions? What did you come to understand?
- What are some questions or aspects about the Holy Spirit that you hope will be addressed in this series?

LEARNING FROM GOD'S WORD

Read through the following passages and consider what we learn about the Holy Spirit in each passage? (E.g., His character, His actions, His relationship with us)

Acts 1:4-8

- Notice the context for Jesus' command and promise is relational (eating with them, gathered around Him) and missional- how they would continue Jesus' mission to bring eternal life to the world through discipleship.
- The Holy Spirit would baptize them. This means to enfold them into God's family, God's church.
- The disciples asked about Jesus leaving because they needed His leadership, His timing, His authority.
- Jesus' promise was that leadership in their / our lives was to continue through the work of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is powerful and would make us powerful.

- The result of this power would be that we would witness with courage and conviction (going beyond our safe places and out into the ends of the earth).

Acts 4:31-32

- Prayer led to being filled with the Holy Spirit
- which led them to speaking the Word of God boldly
- The Holy Spirit's work led them to being unified (one) and sharing possessions

Romans 5:5

- God pours His love into us through the Holy Spirit
- We have been given the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:2-6

The work of the Holy Spirit in us is the theme of Romans 8. Notice the following:

- The Holy Spirit gives life,
- set's us free from the law of sin and death
- As believers in Jesus, we now live according to the Spirit
- We can now have our minds set on what the Spirit desires instead of the flesh
- As we set out minds on the Spirit, we have life and peace

Romans 8:26

The Spirit intercedes for us.

1 Corinthians 2:13

With the Spirit indwelling and teaching us, we no longer have to live with human wisdom alone. We can understand spiritual realities with "Spirit-taught words."

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

- The Holy Spirit is God
- The Holy Spirit has freed us
- God is transforming us through the Spirit to become like Jesus

DISCUSS TOGETHER

We are going to learn about and discuss the person and work of the Holy Spirit. What do you look forward to in our series? **Listen well for what is important and needed.**

How does understanding the person and work of the Holy Spirit move us from religion to relationship? **Much of this series is about teaching or reminding us that God the Spirit indwells, speaks, empowers, etc. Life in Jesus is about relationships – now and forever.**

Do you sense that the Holy Spirit, is personal? powerful?

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

Don't go it alone. You were never meant to follow Jesus without the power of the Holy Spirit at work in your life. This week, ask God to help you learn about Him as you learn about the Spirit's presence and power. Ask God to speak to you as you study His Word and hear from His people.

PLEASE PRAY

We are endeavoring to help people know, love, and follow Jesus. Please pray for . . .

- Our worship, our passion, and our unity in the Spirit
- Our middle and high schoolers as they finish the semester together and team up in mission and ministry
- Our TMOMs and women's ministries as they finish the season together
- Our Elders and ministry shepherds as they focus on our mission to make disciples who make disciples
- Our Senior Adult ministries as they love and serve one another and the people in their worlds

Let's pray for the Spirit to lead, teach, and empower us as we shepherd God's family.

Steve