

FIREPOWER

ENCOUNTERING THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?

ICEBREAKER

If this is a new group or there are new people, please take a moment to **introduce yourselves**.

To start off your small group, briefly share your response

**What is something that you don't understand but you still use it?
(Ex. how an engine or computer works)**

Share with your group.



WHAT TO EXPECT



Let's get a big picture of what we'll be learning today...

Too often we avoid talking about things we don't understand. It may be that we don't know enough, that we're confused about what we do know, or that it's just so hard to grasp. One of those topics is the Holy Spirit. In this week's focus of discussion, we'll dive into understanding who the Holy Spirit is and His role in our lives.

TIPS TO A SUCCESSFUL SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Tip: WELCOME NEW PEOPLE. Take time to introduce new people.

Tip: BE COMFORTABLE WITH SILENCE. Uncomfortable silences are bound to happen. It's okay! A long *pause* during a group discussion can be powerful. A pause gives space for quieter people to break into the conversation; silence allows people to figure out exactly what they would say.

ONLINE Tip: IN PERSON GATHERING. Per State current requirements, please observe the following if your group decides to meet in person: No more than 10 people indoor gathering at this time. This may change based on current State of Hawaii mandate. Please wear a mask and maintain 6 feet social distance.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1.) When you picture "God the Father," maybe you have a certain person in mind. And with Jesus, it seems even easier because of all the paintings and representations over the years. But what comes to mind when you think about the Holy Spirit?

Maybe you think of Him like the force from Star Wars. Or you could have grown up hearing Him being called the "Holy Ghost," which can seem kind of scary to some. The reality is, the Holy Spirit is not scary. So, who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is not a doctrine to believe, but a Person to befriend. The Holy Spirit is not a "thing" or an "It". He's a person. He is God! He's the third part of the Trinity (three persons, One God): God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. He wants to have a relationship with you, make you feel supported whenever there is trouble, and lead you into a life giving bright future that is full of adventure!

What is something you once thought you knew about the Holy Spirit but have since learned wasn't quite true? (Example, that the Holy Spirit was not a distinct person, the Holy Spirit comes and goes, or the Holy Spirit is only present when you feel "goosebumps").

2.) To help better understand the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives today, it may be helpful to take a look at His story as it unfolds in the Bible. In Acts 1:4-5, Jesus told His followers to wait in Jerusalem for the promised Holy Spirit to come. But if the Holy Spirit is God, and God is omnipresent, then wasn't He already there? This can be a little confusing.

If you go all the way back to the beginning, in Genesis 1:2, you will see that the Holy Spirit was already present, hovering over the waters of the earth. And in other places, the Holy Spirit was active in people's lives:

"Look, I have specifically chosen Bezalel...of the tribe of Judah. I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts."

Exodus 31:2-3 (NLT)

As Samson arrived at Lehi, the Philistines came shouting in triumph. But the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon Samson.

Judges 15:14 (NLT)

These are just two examples of the Holy Spirit working in the lives of individuals, helping them lead people, perform tasks, and even giving them supernatural power. However, at that time the Holy Spirit only filled certain people for a specific time. It was temporary. But God promised a change:

I will pour out My Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. In those days I will pour out My Spirit even on servants—men and women alike. Joel 2:28-29 (NLT)

If you are a believer, you have the same Holy Spirit inside of you. This means, He has given you supernatural wisdom, abilities and power. But, how do you know this personally to be true?

What experiences, knowledge, or sense do you have that He is active in your life? (For example, I believe the Holy Spirit would often remind me of God's word, I believe the Holy Spirit has given me certain spiritual gifts that I'm using to serve others to build up God's family, I'm able to pray and have conversations with God, I feel a sense of peace in the midsts of hardship and trials, I feel convicted when I disobey God, etc.)

3.) There are many different metaphors to try to explain who the Holy Spirit is to us. Two that seem to be mentioned the most are “wind” and “fire.” In fact, they both show up in the story of the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out:

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, ...tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-4 (ESV)

A good way to understand these metaphors is this – “wind” represents “power,” and “fire” represents “purity.” Notice that the book of Acts says it is a “mighty rushing wind.” This was no small breeze. And both the Greek and Hebrew words for “spirit” can also mean “wind” or “breath.” Think about it, the Holy Spirit gives you life and empowers your every move!

But it also brings purity. The Holy Spirit is holy, after all. That word means to “set apart” or “be different.” When you look around you, you don’t have to look too far to see something that isn’t quite right. We can call this sin, and habitual, ongoing sin has no place in the life of a believer. The Holy Spirit will convict you of sin and give you the power to avoid it.

Which of these two pictures, “wind” and “fire,” means the most to you? Which helps you get a clearer picture of who the Holy Spirit is? Which helps you in your daily life more?

4.) Before going to the cross, Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit after leaving earth. Here are a few of the things He said about that:

*When He comes, He will **convict** the world of its **sin**, and of God’s **righteousness**, and of the **coming judgment**.*

John 16:8 (NIV)

*The **Comforter**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, He will **teach you** all things, and **remind you** of all things that I said to you.*

John 14:26 (LSV)

*I will ask the Father, and He will give you another **Counselor** to **be with you forever**.*

John 14:16 (CSB)

Notice three different words that describe the Holy Spirit: **Convict**, **Comfort**, and **Counsel**. The Holy Spirit is able to do all three of these, sometimes He does all three at the same time!

First, He **convicts** us of our sin. Whenever you are tempted to do wrong, or maybe you slip up and sin, the Holy Spirit is the voice within who tells you that you've gone astray and to repent, to turn from the sin.

Next, He **comforts**. 2 Corinthians 1 tells us that God is the God of all comfort and comforts us in all of our needs. The person of the Holy Spirit comforts us in many different ways.

Finally, He **counsels** us. When you are unsure of which way to go, He is the voice behind you telling you what path to take.

How has the Holy Spirit convicted you, comforted you, and/or counseled you in the past?

5.) One of the things that Jesus taught His disciples, and us, to do is to serve one another. And to accomplish this, Jesus said the Holy Spirit would lead us to remember His commands. Read the following passages together:

When the Father sends the Advocate as My representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—He will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

John 14:26 (NLT)

"...but among you it is different. Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant."

Mark 10:43 (TLB)

We can do that through serving in our home, at our work place, and in our church.

What is one thing that you can do starting today to serve your family, your work place and/or your church? What is an area of ministry that the Holy Spirit could be nudging you to test drive to serve for four (4) Sundays?

• Scan the QR code below



• You can text "New Helper" to 45777 or go to our website NHWW.org to sign up

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

As we begin to learn more about the Holy Spirit in this series, be present and ready to hear from Him & **ask these three questions:**

- Where is the Holy Spirit convicting me? Am I responding?
- Holy Spirit, please comfort me and open my eyes to the many ways You bring this comfort to me and through others?
- Holy Spirit, I need Your counsel in the following area _____?

ADDITIONAL ACTION STEP:

- As you take time to pray this week, ask the Holy Spirit to show you how you can serve others:

1. Family
2. Work-place
3. Church



CLOSE IN PRAYER

Take a few minutes to close your time together with prayer and to pray for each other's prayer requests. Below is a sample prayer to read if you choose to. You can also choose to write down each other's prayer requests to remember throughout the week.

Sample Prayer:

"Holy Spirit, You are welcome here. We invite You into every area of our lives and we make room for You to make the much needed adjustments so that our lives reflect more like Jesus. We are so grateful for all that You have done in our lives, and what You are ready to do in the weeks to come as we gain a better understanding of who You are and how You are working in and through our lives. When we are tempted, You are there to show us the better way. When we are hurting, You nurture hope and bring comfort in our lives. When we are lost, You direct our steps. Thank You! In Jesus' wonderful and powerful name we pray, amen!"



Group Prayer Requests:

Name & Prayer request:

Day 1: *That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," He said. Then He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.*

John 20:19, 22 (NLT)

Day 2: *When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring Me glory by telling you whatever He receives from Me.*

John 16:13-14 (NLT)

Day 3: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

Day 4: *May God, the source of hope, fill you with joy and peace through your faith in Him. Then you will overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13 (GWT)

Day 5: *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

2 Corinthians 13:14 (NIV)