

# BREATHE

## Week 1 | Everyone Gets the Invite

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### LESSON TO LIFE — 5-Day Devotional Guide

This guide is designed to help the message you heard on Sunday move from your head to your heart and into your daily life. Each day includes reflection questions, a recommended reading, and a guided prayer. Set aside 15–20 minutes per day — find a quiet place, bring your Bible, and come expectant.

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#### Key Scripture

*"I will pour out my Spirit on all people."*

— Joel 2:28 / Acts 2:17

Aurora Community Church • BREATHE Series • May 2026

MONDAY — DAY 1

## The Spirit Is Poured, Not Rationed

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Joel 2:28 / Acts 2:17

"I will pour out my Spirit on all people."

### REFLECTION

1

Be honest: have you ever secretly believed the Holy Spirit was "more available" to certain Christians than to you? Where do you think that belief came from — a church experience, something someone said, your own sense of unworthiness?

2

The Hebrew word shaphak (pour) means to gush, to spill, to empty out completely. What does it do to your understanding of God's generosity to picture Him emptying Himself out rather than rationing His Spirit to you drop by drop?

### FURTHER READING

 **God's Empowering Presence** — Gordon Fee

Fee's landmark work on the Holy Spirit in Paul's letters. Chapter 1 explores what Paul means by 'receiving the Spirit' and why it is the defining mark of every believer — not just the spiritually advanced.

**Why this week:** *Grounds the sermon's core claim — the Spirit is the baseline of Christian existence, not a graduate-level bonus — in rigorous New Testament scholarship.*

### GUIDED PRAYER

*Father, I confess that I've sometimes treated Your Spirit like something I had to earn or grow into.*

*I've let the lie settle quietly in me — that He was for the people further along, more disciplined, more devoted.*

*Today I bring that assumption to You and I lay it down.*

*Your Word says You pour. Not drip. Not ration. Pour.*

*So today I simply say: I am open. I am willing. I say yes.*

*Let Your Spirit fill me — not just the polished parts of me, but the ordinary, Monday-morning me.*

*Amen.*



TUESDAY — DAY 2

## The Invite List Includes You

**Joel 2:28–29**

*"Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."*

### REFLECTION

3

Joel's list — sons, daughters, young, old, servants, free — was socially explosive in his day. Which of these categories feels most surprising or personally relevant to you? What does it mean that God specifically included people like you in this list?

4

The sermon said, "The Holy Spirit does not qualify the qualified — He qualifies the called." Think of a time you disqualified yourself from something God may have been inviting you into. What would it look like to say yes to that invitation now?

### FURTHER READING

 **Surprised by the Voice of God** — Jack Deere

A former cessationist theologian's account of discovering that God still speaks today. Chapter 3 addresses why ordinary people — not just the spiritually elite — hear God's voice and are used by His Spirit.

**Why this week:** Directly addresses the 'golden ticket' illusion: the belief that Spirit-empowered life is reserved for a select few rather than offered to all.

### GUIDED PRAYER

*Lord Jesus, You made a list and You put me on it.  
Not because I've earned my place or arrived at some level of spiritual achievement —  
but because Your generosity is the only qualification that counts.  
I confess the ways I've talked myself out of the room —  
the "I'm too young," "I'm too broken," "I'm not ready" whispers I've agreed with.  
Today I choose to believe what Your Word says instead.  
Your Spirit is for me. Not eventually. Now.  
Use me — ordinary, unpolished, and willing — for Your purposes.*

*Amen.*

WEDNESDAY — DAY 3

## Brown, Orange, and Blue — The Whole Picture

**John 3:8**

*"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."*

### REFLECTION

5

The sermon described three kinds of churches — Brown (rooted in the Father), Orange (centered on Jesus), and Blue (open to the Spirit). Which of these reflects where you are most comfortable? Which one challenges you the most, and why?

6

Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as wind — uncontrollable and unpredictable. Where in your faith life have you been trying to contain or manage the Spirit rather than position yourself to move with Him? What would surrendering that control actually look like for you this week?

### FURTHER READING

 **The Holy Spirit: An Introduction** — John Bevere

An accessible, pastoral introduction to who the Holy Spirit is, how He moves, and why so many Christians live below the life He intends. Particularly strong on the relationship between Scripture, surrender, and Spirit.

**Why this week:** *Helps readers develop a theology of the Spirit that is both doctrinally grounded (brown) and experientially open (blue) — exactly the integration the sermon calls for.*

### GUIDED PRAYER

*Holy Spirit, I admit that I prefer You when You're predictable.  
I like the parts of faith that I can plan, prepare for, and keep under control.  
But You are wind — and wind doesn't ask permission.  
Teach me what it means to be positioned rather than in charge.  
Show me the places where I've built fences around You out of fear or comfort.  
I want to be a person who moves when You move,  
who leans in when You speak,  
and who has the courage to follow You somewhere I didn't plan.*

*Lead. I'll follow.*

*Amen.*

THURSDAY — DAY 4

## Rivers From Within — The Depth of His Presence

**John 7:37–38**

*"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."*

### REFLECTION

7

Jesus says rivers of living water will flow from your koilia — your gut, your inner being, the deepest part of you. What does the idea of the Spirit flowing outward from your deepest self (rather than being an external occasional visitor) do to how you think about everyday life and relationships?

8

The sermon drew a contrast between visiting the Spirit once a week and having Him flow from within you. On a practical level, how would your Monday through Saturday look different if you genuinely expected the Spirit to be active and present inside you throughout the day — not just in church?

### FURTHER READING

 **Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit** — Francis Chan

Chan's honest, challenging book confronts the gap between the Spirit-saturated life described in Acts and the largely Spirit-absent Christianity many people actually live. He asks hard questions about why so many believers settle for less.

**Why this week:** *Speaks directly to the idea of rivers flowing from within — and asks why most Christians are living with a trickle when God promised a flood.*

### GUIDED PRAYER

*Jesus, You said rivers — not puddles. Not a drip. Rivers.  
I confess that I've often settled for far less than that.  
I've gone to You when I was desperate and forgotten You when things felt manageable.  
But You live in me. Not on the outside of me — inside me.  
Let that truth shift something today.  
Let me carry an awareness of Your presence into every conversation,  
every decision, every moment that feels too ordinary to matter.*

*Nothing is ordinary when Your Spirit is in it.  
Flow through me today. Let others feel the current.  
Amen.*

FRIDAY — DAY 5

## The Table, the Yes, and the Week Ahead

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**1 Corinthians 11:25 / Ephesians 1:13–14**

*"This cup is the new covenant in my blood... And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance."*

### REFLECTION

9

The sermon connected communion to the gift of the Holy Spirit — calling the Spirit God's "down payment" on every promise He has made. How does receiving communion with that understanding change what it means to take the bread and the cup? What would it look like to approach the table next Sunday with that awareness?

10

Throughout this week, you've been asked to reflect on the Spirit's availability, His generosity, and His desire to flow from your innermost being. As you close the week: what is the most significant shift in how you understand or relate to the Holy Spirit? And what is one concrete step you feel invited to take in response?

### FURTHER READING

 **Keep in Step with the Spirit** — J.I. Packer

A classic and careful exploration of the Spirit's person and work, with special attention to what it means to "keep in step" with the Spirit in daily life. Packer is particularly helpful on the difference between seeking spiritual experiences and cultivating ongoing relationship with the Spirit.

**Why this week:** *The perfect close to the week — grounding the emotional and experiential dimensions of the Spirit in a robust, lasting theology of life in the Spirit.*

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### REVIEW THE WEEK

Before you close this week, take a few minutes to look back. Use these questions to consolidate what the Spirit has been doing in you through these five days.

1. Which single idea from Sunday's sermon or this week's reflections has stayed with you most — and why do you think it landed so deeply?
2. Where did you notice the Spirit prompting, nudging, or speaking to you in a specific situation this week?

3. Is there a belief about the Holy Spirit that you held at the start of the week that has shifted, softened, or been challenged? Be specific.
4. Who in your life needs to hear the message that "everyone gets the invite"? How might you carry that truth to them?
5. On a scale of 1–10, how open would you say you currently are to the Spirit's leading in your daily life — and what would it take to move that number up by even one?

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## A Prayer of Preparation

### Getting Ready for Sunday: "He's Not What You Think He Looks Like"

*Holy Spirit, I come to You before Sunday with open hands and an honest heart.  
I'm realizing this week that I have held assumptions about You —  
pictures in my mind, categories I've placed You in,  
ways I've expected You to show up that have more to do with my comfort than Your  
nature.  
As I prepare to hear from You again this Sunday,  
I ask You to disrupt whatever in me has domesticated You.  
Dismantle the caricatures. Correct the misunderstandings.  
Show me who You actually are — not who I assumed You were.  
I don't want a version of the Holy Spirit that fits neatly into my existing theology.  
I want You. The real You. The One Jesus promised.  
Come and surprise me.  
Come and correct me.  
Come and make Yourself known — not as I imagined, but as You truly are.  
I'll be in that room on Sunday. Meet me there.  
Amen.*

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## See you Sunday.

*The table is ready. The Spirit is poured. Everyone gets the invite.*