



**LIFE GROUP NOTES**  
**For Week commencing:**



# Holy Spirit

19/05/2024	<b>The Coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2)</b>
26/05/2024	The Person of the Holy Spirit
02/06/2024	Being filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18-21)
09/06/2024	The Work of the Holy Spirit
16/06/2024	The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
23/06/2024	Unity in the Spirit (Ephesians 4:1-6)
30/06/2024	The Gifts of the Spirit - Introduction
07/07/2024	The Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:1-11) Revelation
14/07/2024	The Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:1-11) Power
21/07/2024	The Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:1-11) Communication
28/07/2024	The Gifts of the Spirit (Romans 12:6-8)
04/08/2024	The Gifts of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:11)
11/08/2024	The Word and the Spirit
18/08/2024	Worship in the Spirit
25/08/2024	Living by the Spirit

## **Introduction**

From Genesis to Revelation, there unfolds a grand narrative within God's Word. Central to this narrative is God's desire to fill His Temple with His presence. It's easy to miss this thread that runs through scripture if we view God's temple as building. His temple is far more than a building - the temple of God is the place where God meets with man. When we see the temple from this perspective the importance of the temple in scripture bursts to life and we get a better understanding of the event that happened on the day of Pentecost recorded in Acts 2.

## **Objective**

That we see the coming of the Holy Spirit has been throughout the entire Bible, and God has used the Spirit from creation to the ends of the earth in our lives.

That we see the church as God's temple, us as his people, that the spirit resides in us.

That we put following Christ first, and not the world, to empty ourselves to be filled with the Spirit

**Our Text – Read Acts 2 together. What references to the book of Joel can be found in the chapter**

## **Sermon Outline**

- 1) The Garden of Eden: Genesis presents the Garden of Eden as the first temple (Gen 1:27). Usually when a temple is built the last thing that is placed in the temple is the image of the god that the temple has been in honour of. In the Garden of Eden the last thing that God does before He rests, is create man in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-27). Water flowed out from Eden to the world. Adam and Eve were the first priests of this temple (Genesis 2:15). However they failed to “keep” the temple, sin came in and they were driven out of the temple with Cherubim guarding the way. Adam and Eve were covered by God in animal skins which started a pattern where humans would need a covering to have any hope to meet with God.
- 2) The Tabernacle: God still desired to dwell with His people. But sin and impurity, which came as a result of the fall, was now a problem. God instructed Moses to build the tabernacle, a mobile temple, where He would dwell in the midst of His people (read from Exodus 25 onwards). The tabernacle was a tent and in the middle was the Ark of the Covenant. God's glory filled the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34-38). The tabernacle was adorned with garden imagery (see the golden lampstand - Exodus 25:31-39 and pomegranates embroidered on the priestly garments - Exodus 28:33). The veil guarding the entrance to the Most Holy Place had cherubim embroidered in it (Exodus 26:31). The priests could only come into the tabernacle through sacrifice - covering their sin. The priests “kept” the temple. They took care of it and were the mediators between God and His people. Even though God's glory resided in the midst of His people, the sin problem continued.
- 3) Solomon's temple (The first temple): Now that the people were settled in the land it seemed right that God should also have a permanent dwelling place. David desired to build a temple (2 Samuel 7) but Solomon was the one appointed to build it. The temple, like the tabernacle, was adorned with garden imagery (1 Kings 6:18,29,32,35; 7:20). The veil which guarded the Holy of Holies was embroidered with cherubim (2 Chronicles 3:14). God's glory filled the temple (1 Kings 8:10-11). The priests could only come by offering sacrifices to cover their sin. This temple did not

- last. Because of sin, God eventually drove His people out the land. The temple was destroyed by the Babylonians (2 Kings 25:8-9).
- 4) Ezekiel's temple (A prophecy): Ezekiel, a priest, was one of the exiles taken to Babylon. God showed him visions of His glory leaving the temple (Ezekiel 10) and its eventual destruction (Ezekiel 24). But God is not done with His desire to meet with man. He shows Ezekiel visions of a future temple (Ezekiel 40-47). God's glory returns to His temple. There are priests in the temple and a river flows out from the temple bringing life to the world. Ezekiel also prophesied of a time where God would put His Spirit into His people, regenerating them and cleansing them from the sin that was getting in the way of them meeting with God (Ezekiel 36:22-37). In this aftermath of the destruction of the first temple, here was a message of hope for God's people!
  - 5) The second temple: This temple is described in Ezra 3-6. After the exile the first Jews return from Babylon in small numbers to rebuild the city and its walls. The second temple was built in the face of fierce opposition and delays. At the dedication of the temple (Ezra 6) we are not told of the glory of God filling it as it happened at the dedication of the tabernacle and the first temple. The temple would be refurbished and improved (rebuilt and enlarged in the time of Herod the Great - 63 BC but up till its destruction in 70 AD by the Romans it never became the temple that Ezekiel prophesied about. God however continues to give hope to His people - Haggai 2:5-9.
  - 6) Jesus and the Temple: Jesus, God incarnate, comes into the world and "tabernacles" among His creation (John 1:14). No longer a physical temple. Jesus is the temple (Matthew 26:60-62, John 2:18-22) but He is also greater than the temple because He is God (Matthew 12:3-6)! Jesus is also a better priest (Hebrews 7:26-27). Jesus does not need sacrifices to make Himself clean, rather He died as a sacrifice to cleanse us from our sins. When He died, the veil of the physical temple (remember the imagery of the cherubim) was torn in two (Matthew 27:50-51) giving us access into the Most Holy Place. Jesus gives us the living water - the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39). Jesus is the ultimate temple! In Him we get to meet with God.
  - 7) The Church: Acts 2, Pentecost is a temple experience. The Holy Spirit, God, descends on God's people. The Church is the temple of God (1 Peter 2:4-5). The Holy Spirit resides in the Church. Individually we, who make up the church, are also the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:19). We need to guard the temple and keep it clean. We no longer need to go to a place to meet with God as He resided in us. We are all priests (1 Peter 2:9-10)
  - 8) The eternal temple: We look forward to a future where we will live with God face to face. What about the Ezekiel temple? We have no need for a physical temple. The Ezekiel prophecy is pointing us to Jesus. All other temples have been types and shadows, in eternity we will experience the fullness, the reality. The new temple is wonderfully described in Revelation 21:22-27. God dwells with His people. Note that in this future temple there is still garden imagery and the water of life (Revelation 22:1-5)!

## **Life Group Activities**

Use the Three Thirds structure for your gathering together.

## **Looking Back**

- Mutual Care – How are you doing?
- Worship & Prayer
  - Worship
  - Pray
  - Communion
- Loving Accountability
  - How did you follow?
  - How did you fish? (Ask how many gospel shares in the last week)
- Vision Cast – Why are we meeting like this?
  - Make sure that you are clear on your LG goals.

## Looking up

### Discovery Bible Study Bible Reading Title

#### Sermon Notes Here

From Genesis to Revelation, there unfolds a grand narrative within God's Word. Central to this narrative is God's desire to fill His Temple with His presence. It's easy to miss this thread that runs through scripture if we view God's temple as building. His temple is far more than a building - the temple of God is the place where God meets with man. When we see the temple from this perspective the importance of the temple in scripture bursts to life and we get a better understanding of the event that happened on the day of Pentecost recorded in Acts 2.

#### Discovery Bible Study:

- Read and re-read the passage and retell the passage - **Read all of Acts 2 together**
- What do we learn about God (Father, Son, Spirit)?
- What do we learn about people?
- Is there a command to obey or a promise to stand on?
- How are you going to apply this teaching to your life?
- Supplementary Questions Here
  - **How as a lifegroup will you respond to the Acts 2 coming of the Holy Spirit?**
  - **How as a lifegroup can you encourage each other to use the gifting of the spirit?**
  - **Have all members of the lifegroup been filled with the Holy Spirit? If not spend time welcoming the spirit into your group's lives.**

## Looking Forward

- Practice
- Set Goals:
  - What are the key Takeaways (main learning)?
  - What are your / our Action Points?
  - Use C.O.S.T.
    - Connect – How am I going to connect with God this week?
    - Obey – How am I going to be obedient this week?
    - Share – Who am I going to share the gospel with or pray with this week?
    - Teach – Who can I encourage with this message this week?
- Pray together

## The 3Thirds Discipleship Model

Look back	Look up	Look forward
<p><b>1. Mutual care:</b> How are you doing?</p> <p><b>2. Worship:</b> Praising God in a simple, relevant way.</p> <p><b>3. Accountability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Follow:</i> How did you obey the lesson from last time?</li> <li>• <i>Fish:</i> Did you pray with anyone who was in need?</li> <li>• Did you share your story and/or Jesus' story?</li> <li>• Did you find a person of peace?</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Casting vision</b> for reaching lost people and making disciples.</p>	<p><b>5. New lesson:</b> Enough Biblical content to obey and pass it on.</p> <p>Use the Discovery Bible Study Method:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Read the Bible Story</li> <li>b. Ask them to re-tell the story in their own words</li> <li>c. Ask four questions               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. What does this story tell us about God?</li> <li>ii. What does this story tell us about people?</li> <li>iii. Is there a command to obey or an example to follow or a promise to live by?</li> <li>iv. How does this apply to my life?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>6. Practice</b> the lesson until everyone is confident and competent to apply the learning. e.g. Retell your story, Jesus' story, or this week's story.</p> <p><b>7. Set goals</b></p> <p>Goals for personal growth, sharing the gospel, and training others.</p> <p>C.O.S.T. Connect Obey Share Teach</p> <p><b>8. Pray and Share Communion</b></p>
<p><b>1/3 of your time</b> (e.g. 30 mins)</p>	<p><b>1/3 of your time</b> (e.g. 30 mins)</p>	<p><b>1/3 of your time</b> (e.g. 30 mins)</p>