

G H O S T

Literacy Check

- **Philippians 1:3-11** - Paul expressing thanks and encouragement
- **John 3:23-36** - John the Baptist on the realities of Jesus
- **Matthew 28:16-20** - The Great Commission

Let's Break the Ice

If you could be an Olympic athlete, in which event would you compete?

Introduction

The work was started by God, it continues by God, and will be completed by God! Be encouraged and lean in to God as Holy Spirit begins His flood!

A Good Idea

This week Josh broke down a song we sing at Branches quite often. Perhaps this would be a good opportunity for your small group to worship together, even if you just sang along with a YouTube video.

Things to Ponder

When Paul writes to the Philippians, he was reminding them of some basic facts that we often forget, 2000 years later. It is not by our power, efforts, or intentions that we a good work is in us. It is by God's choice. John the Baptist summed it up well when he described what must become true in order for Jesus to reign, not just in the world but in our hearts. When Jesus commissioned His followers, us, to go and make disciples, He did not intend for us to do it alone: in fact He knew we couldn't do it without help.

We have spend several weeks describing the characteristics and traits of the Holy Spirit. Lead your group through a discussion around what changes, if any, your group has experienced as they have learned more about God in this way? Discuss any ongoing prayer needs and certainly celebrate the wins your group has experienced.

Now transition your discussion toward what those hopes and prayers and successes can mean for those your group members interact with often. Have each person pick someone who needs to be shown love and mercy, just as we are shown love and mercy by God.

Wrapping Up

It's a new series next week, **Branches**, and in week 3 there is a Baptism being celebrated on Sunday morning. Encourage your group members who may be on the fence to take that next step, or encourage your group to be praying for this season of change at Branches and in our lives.