

Let's start: Invite God in, trust the Holy Spirit to guide your meeting, and to touch your lives.

Discussion: Receive the Gift: *Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.* 1 Corinthians 12:1 NIV

Note that this is only a guide. Please discuss the points you want to discuss.

When all the people were being baptised, Jesus was baptised too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. Luke 3:21-23b (NIV)

- 1. At the time, how would the people have been around Jesus (bear in mind that He had not started His public ministry)? Why do you think Jesus was baptised? Knowing Jesus was baptised, how does it make you feel about the importance of baptism? What occurred directly after His baptism, and what then followed? (look this up)**

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

- 2. What stands out most for you in these verses? Why does it say 'FRUIT' and not 'FRUITS' plural, but then lists them all? Can you produce these strengths in your own life consistently? If you're struggling in an area, how can you overcome it?**

But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you... Romans 8:9a (NLT)

- 3. Has anyone here in the group got a testimony about overcoming sin in their life once they were filled with the Holy Spirit? Why do people think they will never overcome these sin challenges in their lives?**

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. Romans 8:26 (NLT)

For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him. Luke 11:10-13 (NLT)

- 4. Have you personally asked God to baptise you in the Holy Spirit? (Please ask the group to share testimonies about their experiences.) Why do we find ourselves trying to lean on our own understanding and wisdom? What habits can we develop to help us rely on the Holy Spirit more?**

Remember: The Holy Spirit is a person. He wants you to desire to know Him in a deeper way, and with clear understanding. We need to be re-filled as often as possible! Being filled with the Spirit brings about a power in our lives that enables us to fulfil the will of God for our lives. Jesus' ministry began once He was baptised in the Holy Spirit. The disciples asked God often to refill them with the Holy Spirit.

WORKS: Let's pray for:

- The Holy Spirit to baptise and fill those in the group who have never experienced it.
- Lay hands on everyone in the group for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit.
- Any special needs in the group.
- Pray for the building plans to be able to proceed, that God opens the right doors in our municipality that are causing the delays.