

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide
November 15, 2015



Ghost Stories – Week #4

INTRODUCTION:

1. As Pastor Paul discussed, sometimes there can be a projected spiritual hierarchy when it comes to being filled with the Spirit. Similar to a few weeks ago when Pastor Jeff talked about “being born again”, we all have some perceived ideas around the phrase “filled with the spirit”. Share with the group your experience around this term prior to this week’s message. Was it positive, negative, or non-existent for you?

DIVE IN:

1. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a one-time event, but an ongoing process. Pastor Paul referenced Matthew 5:6 in his message. Do you regularly “hunger and thirst for righteousness” – is there a desire to be Spirit-filled in your life? If so, how does this play out in your life? If not, what do you think is stopping you from having a desire to be filled?
2. Pastor Paul asked the direct question on Sunday, “How do you know you’re filled with the Spirit?” Discuss with your group what this looks like practically. How do you know you’ve “got it” or “don’t have it”?
3. Take the time to read through Luke 11 together as a group. Then answer the questions that follow.

“For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” - Luke 11:10-13 (ESV)

4. One of the primary reasons that many of us don’t live the extraordinary life that comes with being filled with the Spirit is because of our own fears. As the Luke passage highlights, God is a good father. To embrace being filled with the Spirit, we have to trust God to give us what is best for us and have a desire for Him. Discuss with the group some of the fears that come with the idea of being filled with the spirit. How does trusting God’s goodness overcome them?
5. Take the time as you wrap up your group to spend a few minutes in intentional prayer. Encourage your group to overcome some fears and lean in on this topic. Confess sins as needed. Verbally express a desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Acknowledge the fears that stand in the way and ask God to allow you overcome them. Tell God you trust Him, and mean it!

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NOW WHAT:

1. What part of this week's message has had the greatest impact on you? What truth(s) has God taught you through the message and our group discussion?
2. What do you need to do with that truth this week to become a fully engaged follower of Jesus?