THE HOLY SPIRIT

GOD'S PRESENCE, POWER, AND PURPOSE

Shared Study Guide

For personal and family study and Thursday men's and women's groups

Based on the sermon anchored in John 16:7–15 and Acts 1:8.

Our Purpose

To understand who the Holy Spirit is, respond to His work through faith in Jesus Christ, and grow together in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

Sermon Overview

The Holy Spirit is the eternal divine Person who gives life, glorifies Jesus, changes God's people, empowers gospel witness, and guarantees the believer's future hope. The study follows the sermon from Genesis to Revelation, emphasizing Scripture over mere experience, character alongside gifts, and daily dependence on God.

Starting the Conversation

When you hear "the Holy Spirit," what comes to mind? Has the sermon challenged or changed your understanding?

How to use this guide: Read each passage aloud in your Bible. Discuss the questions without rushing. It is fine to cover fewer sections in depth in a group session; use the remaining material for personal study.

1. The Holy Spirit Is God, Not an Impersonal Force

Read: Genesis 1:1–2; Acts 5:3–4; Matthew 3:16–17; Ephesians 4:30

1. Observe: What do Acts 5:3–4 and Ephesians 4:30 reveal about the Spirit's deity and personhood?

2. Understand: At Jesus' baptism, how are the Father, Son, and Spirit distinguished without teaching three gods?

3. Discuss: The sermon compared knowing what a parent does with knowing who the parent is. How might we seek the Spirit's benefits yet overlook reverence for Him?

4. Apply: What would change in our prayers and decision-making if we approached the Holy Spirit as the living God rather than as a power to control?

Personal reflection / notes: _____

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2. The Spirit Equips Servants and Promises New Hearts

Read: Exodus 31:1–5; Numbers 11:25–29; Ezekiel 36:25–27; Joel 2:28–29

1. Observe: What kinds of work did the Spirit equip Bezalel and the elders to accomplish?

2. Understand: What is different about God's promise in Ezekiel 36:25–27 compared with merely improving outward behavior?

3. Discuss: How does Samson's story caution us against confusing public ability or spiritual gifts with private godliness?

4. Apply: What unseen service can you honor or undertake this week, and what area of your life needs heart-level change?

Personal reflection / notes: _____

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3. The Spirit Glorifies Jesus Christ

Read: Luke 4:16–21; John 14:16–17, 26; John 16:7–15

1. Observe: According to John 16:8–11 and 16:14, what does the Spirit reveal, convict of, and glorify?

2. Understand: Why is the Spirit's ministry Christ-centered rather than focused on impressive experiences or personalities?

3. Discuss: The sermon used the picture of a spotlight illuminating someone onstage. What does the analogy explain, and where does it fall short?

4. Apply: How could a conversation, worship gathering, or act of service more clearly direct attention to Jesus this week?

Personal reflection / notes: _____

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4. The Spirit Empowers the Church to Witness

Read: Acts 1:8; Acts 2:22–41; Acts 4:29–31; Acts 10:34–48

1. Observe: For what purpose does Jesus promise power in Acts 1:8, and what is the center of Peter's message in Acts 2?

2. Understand: Why should we be careful about turning every event recorded in Acts into a required pattern for every believer?

3. Discuss: What do Stephen's suffering and the church's repeated fillings teach about courage and dependence?

4. Apply: Who is one person you could pray for and speak to about Christ with love and humility?

Personal reflection / notes: _____

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5. The Spirit Brings New Birth and Christlike Fruit

Read: John 3:3–8; Romans 8:9–17; Galatians 5:16–25

1. Observe: Why did Nicodemus need new birth despite his religious knowledge, and how does Romans 8 describe the Spirit's work in believers?

2. Understand: What distinction does Galatians 5 make between the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit?

3. Discuss: The sermon pictured plastic fruit taped to a dead branch. What is the danger of substituting appearances for genuine spiritual life?

4. Apply: Which aspect of the Spirit's fruit particularly needs to be visible in your home, workplace, or church relationships?

Personal reflection / notes: _____

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6. Be Filled with the Spirit Daily

Read: Ephesians 5:18–21; Romans 8:26–27; 1 Corinthians 12:4–7; 1 Thessalonians 5:19–22

1. Observe: What practices and relationships surround the command to be filled with the Spirit in Ephesians 5?

2. Understand: How do Scripture, prayer, and testing spiritual claims help us respond faithfully to the Spirit?

3. Discuss: Why should gifts be used for the common good in love rather than as a measure of spiritual status?

4. Apply: Identify one realistic daily rhythm of reading, praying, repenting, serving, or reconciling that you will pursue this week.

Personal reflection / notes: _____

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7. The Spirit Guarantees Our Future Hope

Read: Romans 8:11, 23; Ephesians 1:13–14; Revelation 22:17

1. Observe: What do “firstfruits” and “guarantee” communicate about the future promised to those in Christ?

2. Understand: How does biblical resurrection hope differ from mere optimism or the idea that the body does not matter?

3. Discuss: How can certainty about God’s future help us persevere in suffering and serve in the present?

4. Apply: Who needs encouragement from the promise of resurrection and the Spirit’s final invitation to come?

Personal reflection / notes: _____

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Bringing the Message Home

1. Where am I substituting religious activity or a past experience for present dependence on the Holy Spirit?

2. Where is the Spirit calling me to repentance, forgiveness, patient love, or practical service?

3. Whom can I pray for and lovingly tell about Jesus this week?

4. What truth about our resurrection hope most encourages me today?

This Week’s Response

My Scripture passage to revisit: _____

One specific act of obedience or love: _____

One person I will pray for: _____

The Gospel Invitation

Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again (John 3:3–8). Religious knowledge or self-improvement cannot produce new spiritual life. Jesus Christ died for sinners and rose again. The appropriate response is to repent and trust in Him. For those who believe, the Spirit brings life and grows us in Christlikeness.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for sending Jesus and giving Your Holy Spirit. Open our hearts to Your Word. Produce love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in us. Give us courage to speak about Jesus, faithfulness in service, and hope in Your promises. In Jesus' name, amen.