

Small Group Guide: The Holy Spirit and Gideon

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together asking God to help you understand how the Holy Spirit works in your life and to give you courage to follow His leading.

Introduction

This week we're exploring how the Holy Spirit works in our lives through the story of Gideon in Judges 6. We'll examine the relationship between serving God and being served by God's Spirit, and what Jesus teaches us about the Spirit's role in our lives.

Scripture Readings

- **Judges 6:25-35** - Gideon tears down the altar to Baal
- **John 16:7-11** - Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit

Key Takeaways

1. The Spirit Invites Us to Participate

The Holy Spirit doesn't need our help, but invites us to be involved in God's work—like a parent inviting a child to help with dishes. It might be messy, but it's for our growth and benefit.

2. The Spirit Guides Without Giving Omnipotence

Gideon didn't see the whole plan—just the next step. The Spirit leads us forward without revealing everything at once. We walk by faith, not by sight.

3. The Spirit is a Person, Not a Force

Jesus refers to the Spirit as "Him"—a person in relationship with us, not an impersonal power we use for our own purposes.

4. The Spirit Defines Reality

The Spirit proves the world wrong about sin, righteousness, and judgment. He provides the filter through which we understand truth, not the world's perspective.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **Read Judges 6:25-35.** Why do you think Gideon did what God commanded at night rather than during the day? What does this reveal about his faith at this point?
2. How did Gideon's father's response (verses 31-32) demonstrate faith? What can we learn from this about defending God's honor?
3. **Read John 16:7-11.** Why does Jesus say it's better for Him to leave and send the Spirit? How does this challenge our natural preferences?

Personal Reflection

1. Think about the parent-child analogy: God inviting us to "help" even when He doesn't need it. When have you experienced God inviting you to participate in something He could easily do without you?
2. Gideon left a mess and didn't have an exit strategy. When has following God's leading gotten "messier" than you expected? How did you see the Spirit guide you through?
3. The discussion mentions we won't know everything about everything. Where do you struggle with wanting more information before you obey? How can you grow in taking the "next step" without seeing the whole staircase?

Applying Truth

1. The Spirit helps us recognize sin, pursue righteousness, and understand judgment. In which of these three areas do you most need the Spirit's guidance right now?
2. The guide warns against thinking we're "the most informed person in the room" because of internet access or media consumption. How can we stay humble and Spirit-led in an age of information overload?
3. "Spirit, lead me" versus trying to use the Spirit for our own plans. What's the difference? Can you share an example from your life of each approach?

Going Deeper

1. How does understanding the Spirit as a person (not a force) change the way you relate to Him? What would it look like to develop a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit?
2. Gideon was serving God, but God's Spirit was also serving Gideon. How do both of these realities work together in the Christian life?

Closing Reflection

"Unless I go, the advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you." - John 16:7
The Spirit's presence is Jesus's gift to us—not to make life easier, but to make us more like Christ. This week, practice humble confidence: you don't know everything, but you know the One who does, and He's leading you forward.