

PART 2 DISCUSSION GUIDE: CHAPTERS 11-21
“HOLY SPIRIT”



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

RENEW ME BY YOUR SPIRIT

WEEK 1: FILLED TO DO SOMETHING!

CHAPTERS 11 & 12.

Get acquainted (ice breaker): Go around the circle and have each person give a 5-point introduction: 1) Name, 2) where you were born, 3) favorite hot beverage 4) kids? 5) dream holiday.

Video Introduction: <https://youtu.be/PJJ2n-WqGEI>

Discussion Questions:

1. Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit as our “helper”. The literal meaning of ‘Helper’ is: “One besides Me and in addition to Me but One just like Me. He will do in My absence what I would do if I were physically present with you.”

What aspect of your Christian walk would you like some “help” with from the Holy Spirit?

2. Discuss “fruitfulness”. What would a more fruitful life look like for you? What obstacles will you need Holy Spirit empowering to overcome?

3. “There is more for you!” How does it make you feel in your spirit to know that God has more power, more boldness, more impact for your life?

NO FEAR!

Scripture: 9 “And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 “You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? 12 Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! 13 So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father (who is Good), give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.” Luke 11:9-13, (NLT)

Prayer time: Have a few people pray to close the meeting.

1 The Apostle John quotes Jesus’ use of the name “Helper” for the Holy Spirit four times in the book of John. (14:16; 14:26; 15:26; 16:7).



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WEEK 2: WHAT IS “THIS?”

CHAPTER 13

Icebreaker: Share a couple of your personal or family traditions. Birthdays, holidays, seasons...

Video Introduction: <https://youtu.be/f3FrGI4u868>

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss: “this is that” (KJV), “to all who are far off” (Acts 2:16, 39) and “just as we have” (Acts 10:46,47).

2. Share some of the indicators of how the spread of the gospel, is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit. (young, old, men, women, all races, rich, poor).

3. Jesus said:

¹² “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. ¹³ You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. (John 14:12,13)

John 16:⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

Read the description of the behavior of the freshly baptized in the Spirit believers from Acts 2:

⁴² All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.

⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. ⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

What do you find most amazing about the results in these ordinary believers lives?

Prayer time: pray for needs and invite the Holy Spirit to our lives. “I welcome you Holy Spirit”.



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WEEK 3: YOU QUALIFY FOR ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD!

CHAPTER 14

Icebreaker: Does someone have a story of what it feels like to be disqualified from something? Or, what it feels like to qualify (be entitled to a particular benefit or privilege by fulfilling a necessary condition.) for something? (like a mortgage or University entrance, or a job)

Video Introduction: <https://youtu.be/Ci5adFKE2A0>

Discussion questions:

1. Does anyone in the group struggle with comparing yourself to other people? What does that sound like in your head?

Read: ⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. Ephesians 2 (NLT).

2. What barriers or excuses have hindered you from continuing to pursue the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

3. How do you feel knowing that, (because of the blood of Jesus) you are qualified to receive all of the gifts and benefits of the Holy Spirit?

Prayer Time: Perhaps the group would be willing to pray this prayer together at the close of the meeting...

“Oh Holy Spirit I welcome You to fill my heart and life with Your power and Your presence. I am so thankful that I qualify for all the gifts and blessings of the Father based on Jesus being the giver, not on my merits. Lord Jesus, baptize me with the Holy Spirit, I welcome you Holy Spirit, I am completely open to all Your workings in my life. Thank You Lord, I Praise You Lord....”



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WEEK 4: REAL PEOPLE – REAL STORIES

CHAPTER 15

Icebreaker: Every person is unique, that uniqueness is what makes us special. If you have done a personality quiz, Enneagram, Myers-Briggs or even “Lion, Otter, Golden retriever, Beaver” – describe your (a few people) understanding of your personality.

Video introduction: <https://youtu.be/ancNukZ8z8M>

Discussion:

1. Choose 3 of the testimonies from Chapter 15 in the book, ask 3 different people to each read one story.

Perhaps the leader of the group or someone (invited to do so prior to the group meeting) in the group, would be willing to share their experience with the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

2. The BIG IDEA! We are unique, we each will experience the person of the Holy Spirit in unique ways.

We are entering into a fuller relationship with The Holy Spirit who is a person. What does it mean to you to ‘lean into’ this relationship?

Prayer Time:

- Pray for the needs in the group
- Pray for openness to all the gifts and enabling power of the Holy Spirit!

Leaders note: Encourage every member of the group to read and apply Chapters 16 & 17, in preparation for next week’s meeting.



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WEEK 5: BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT **CHAPTERS 16,17**

Leaders: check leaders notes.

Icebreaker: Introduce any prayer guests that have joined the group for the evening.

Video Introduction: Video #1 (note: there is also a closing video this week)
https://youtu.be/cqVj_0pIwKw

Worship and prayer ministry time:

Put on a Holy Spirit worship play list in the background

Leader open with a word of prayer inviting the Holy Spirit.

Begin by each person taking some time on their own to invite and welcome the person of the Holy Spirit. This is more like a corporate time of worship rather than a personal time of worship.

After sufficient time has been given, (some will have been receiving others will be still seeking), have a few people lay hands upon each of the people in the group and pray a simple prayer of invitation. The laying on of hands is a powerful point of faith as those people praying exercise faith, along with the person receiving the prayer.

Meeting Close: Video #2. You are being filled with the Holy Spirit! (chapter 18)
<https://youtu.be/th6h9qeQXK8>



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WEEK 6: BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT

CHAPTER 19

Icebreaker: What are a few of your favorite foods or dining experiences? How have you acquired a taste for something that you didn't like before?

Video Introduction: https://youtu.be/rP_e9mFqo64

Discussion Questions: See Leaders Notes for Week 6.

1. Discuss the idea of the Holy Spirit partnering with us to do things that would require His enabling help – like offering to pray for someone.
2. Do you have a story of a moment in your life when you know you were led by the Spirit?
3. The big idea is that we NEED the help of the Holy Spirit to get outside of our natural self-consciousness and fear. What are a few more areas where we could be 'led by the Spirit'?
4. What types of fear would hinder us from growing in the relationship of being 'led' by the Spirit?
 - you will grow more familiar with the promptings of the Spirit as you practice, if you make a mistake, an apology is fine, then add it to your experience of recognizing the partnership of the Spirit.

Prayer time:

Ask the group what type of things they feel, would be good to pray for today.



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WEEK 7 SCATTERING: “THE HEART OF GOD”

CHAPTER 20

Icebreaker: Ask each person born in Canada, (or the country where you are meeting) what city they were born in. Ask those not born in Canada (or the country where you are meeting) when they came to that country and why?

Video Introduction: <https://youtu.be/QotpqY7fz2s>

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss what it means to you to love your family. In a spiritual sense, compare God’s heart for your nation to your love for your family.

2. Since God is the creator of all human beings, discuss the scripture:

“the Lord is not slack (slow), concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

3. What does the rejoicing in heaven over “one soul” that comes to faith indicate about the values of eternity?

4. Discuss: “A soul is a soul is a soul” (the thought around every life being infinitely valuable to God)

Prayer Time:

Have a few people lead in prayer for our hearts to be for the things that move the heart of God. (it’s not all about me!)



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WEEK 8 SCATTERING: THE HARVEST IS A MIRACLE!

CHAPTER 21

Icebreaker: Ask the group to share some stories of successful/unsuccessful gardening or plant growing. What makes it grow, OR why won't it grow?

Video Introduction: <https://youtu.be/htQK8OYjAfw>

Discussion Questions:

Read the Scripture:

“The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he’s asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens.

And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come.” Jesus said, “How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade.” Mark 4:26-32 (NLT)

1. Take some time to discuss how the process of planting a seed to harvest is a miracle.
2. Jesus is comparing the message of the gospel, and the role of the Holy Spirit in the process, to this analogy of planting and harvesting. Discuss “night and day, while he’s asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens.”
3. Were any of you an unlikely candidate for the gospel, and yet here you are? Or do you know of someone that you would have thought: “they will never come to Jesus!”

4. If the seed is never planted there will never be a harvest. How can we increase the planting of seeds and trust in the partnership of the Holy Spirit to make them grow?

Prayer Time:

Pray for more of the Holy Spirit's power and love, for each person, so that we will increase the scattering of seeds.

LEADERS NOTES

WEEK 5: THERE ARE 2 VIDEO'S THIS WEEK

1. It is a good idea to ask one or two people from the leadership of your church to join you for this week of the group. These should be well known and trusted people who have experience praying with people for the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

2. Be prepared with a 'Holy Spirit' themed playlist of worship songs that you can have playing in the background during the prayer times. Here is a link to one I have prepared.

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6dC9fm4cn1gpIJqqaalWNR?si=exOWuAHuQlSnaCYGpcYWrQ>

3. There is also a CLOSING VIDEO to week 5.
"You are being filled with the Holy Spirit"

WEEK 6:

Discussion Question 3: Things like acts of kindness, generosity, prayer for healing, prayer for all types of needs, (loneliness, depression, hurt....)

NOTICE: We are not using authoritative language like "God has told me" or "God has revealed to me..." – we are in a learning relationship not a success or failure question of credibility. This is not about you being right or wrong, it is about a humble obedient heart to minister in Jesus' name.