



Week One

Opening Prayer

God, thank you for this group and for your presence. Help us to hear from you today. Amen.

Talk it Over

This week we kicked off a new series that centers on growing in our understanding of the Holy Spirit. More specifically, we will be looking at who the Holy Spirit is and how the Holy Spirit works in our lives.

- All of us have people we know of, but who we don't know well. This might be a celebrity, a person you work for but don't work directly with, someone from your community everyone else seems to talk about and know but you've not interacted with, a friend's other friend, etc. Tell us about a time you met someone you knew about but technically didn't know.

As we go about today's discussion, let's all remember to remain committed to this group being a safe place no matter where we are on our faith journeys, no matter our doubts, and no matter our questions. This group is intended to be a safe place to process and connect with others.

Read Psalm 51:10-11 (NCV), and Psalm 139:7-10 (NIV)

From the oldest parts of the Bible onward, there are clear references about the Holy Spirit being active in our world. The Holy Spirit was present at creation and has been present with the people of God in various ways throughout the Bible narrative.

- When did you first learn about or hear about the Holy Spirit? What was that experience like?
- How comfortable or uncomfortable are you with the idea of the Holy Spirit working in your life?

Read John 14:15-17; 25-27 (NIV) and Acts 1:8 (NLV)

While the Holy Spirit was present and active from the start of the Bible, Jesus made it clear that he was ushering in a new way of God's Spirit interacting with the world. In other words, with Jesus came a new era, a new covenant, a new promise that declared God's intent to work on us, in us, and through us via his Spirit.

To help us talk through the various ways the Holy Spirit works in our lives, three examples were looked at this week:

1. When the Holy Spirit is working on us, it's like the Spirit is a magnet drawing us to Jesus. Tell us about a time you saw God working like a magnet to draw you or someone you care about to Jesus. As always, if you tell someone else's story, please don't overshare out of respect to the other person.
2. When the Holy Spirit is working in us, the Spirit is like a light leading us forward with Christ and towards his best. Have you ever experienced God's Spirit as a light leading you forward towards God's best? If so, tell us about a more recent experience.

(Content continued on the next page.)

3. When the Holy Spirit is working through us, the Spirit is like the wind; we may not see the wind around us, but we see the effects of it.

What are some ways you have seen God's Spirit work through others this season?

Read Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

Clear evidence of God's Spirit in our life comes in the form of us becoming transformed people.

- Looking at this year alone, how has God changed who you are on the inside?

Read Our Series Theme Verse Galatians 5:25 (NLT)

God invites each us, through the movement of his Spirit, to live a Spirit-led life. Amidst our natural, everyday life, we are invited to live in a very spiritual way where we are filled with God's spirit, energized by his power, and living in step with him every day. On the other hand, if we aren't intentional to lean into God, it can be easy to live a rather Spirit-less way where we are living through our own strength, by our own wisdom, and through our own power.

To help us consider where we are this season on the topic of living a Spirit-led life, we looked at three simple places we might find ourselves:

1. Some of us might not be aware of the Holy Spirit. The hope of this series is that you might find yourself more aware and awake to God's Spirit.
 2. Some of us might be resisting the idea of the Holy Spirit or the movement of the Holy Spirit in our life this season. This might be due to fear, hurt, past experiences, or a lack of understanding. Either way, the hope is this series might soften your heart to God's loving Spirit in your life.
 3. Some of us might be in a place where we are aiming to welcome and to walk in the Spirit.
- Of these three possible places, where do you find yourself most fitting this season? Why is that the case?
 - What do you think you need to work on or consider to help you engage with the Holy Spirit more this season? And remember, it's okay to answer this question honestly.
 - Is there a specific area of your life you'd like to see God's Spirit move boldly this season? Tell us about that area of life and what you are wanting to see.

Closing Prayer

God, thank you for bringing us here and connecting us with you and with each other. You know where each of us is this season and you know the ways you'd like us to open ourselves more to your Spirit. Please speak to us, lead us, and move around us. Help us to see the ways you work on us, in us, and through us. Amen.

How To Use this Discussion Guide

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, consider reviewing the guide before your group to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressure to read all the content or to hit all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help foster friendship and faith in your specific group.

In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead.