

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

What was your understanding of the Holy Spirit before this week's message?

With your Bible or YouVersion.com, read John 14:16-17 and John 16:7.

These verses describe why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be among us and to interact in our lives. The Holy Spirit is not a thing or an "it," He is a part of the person of God.

Why is having the Holy Spirit being active in our lives such an important part of our walk with Christ?

How is the Holy Spirit being in us better than having Jesus on earth with us?

Read Acts 19:1-2 and Acts 7:51.

These verses show that many of us are living a Spirit-less life by either not being aware of the Holy Spirit or resisting the Holy Spirit.

In what ways are you living a Spirit-less life currently?

Read John 16:12-13, Isaiah 30:31, and John 16:8-9.

These verses show how the Holy Spirit is the voice of God we need to guide us.

When you think back, can you see a time when the Holy Spirit was leading you? Did He comfort, counsel, or convict you?

Describe how you need His presence in your life. What steps are you willing to take to live a Spirit-filled life?

NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week to learn more about the Holy Spirit and help you to have a more Spirit-filled life.

Begin reading *Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit*. In this book, Francis Chan offers a detailed understanding of the Holy Spirit and teaches us how to embrace and follow the Holy Spirit's direction. This book is available at most bookstores and online.

Spend time in prayer this week seeking a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit. Pray and allow Him to counsel and comfort you with any struggles you may be facing, as well as convict you of your sins. Use the prayer guide in the box to the right to lead you.

Use these prayer tips to guide your time with God this week to expand your conversations both in person and online:

Read John 14:16-17. Thank God in prayer for the Holy Spirit. Seek to develop a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit by spending more time listening for His voice.

Read Acts 19:1-2 and 7:51. Pray and ask God to help you become more aware of the Holy Spirit in your life and to not resist His direction.

Read John 14:15-17. Commit to obey when the Holy Spirit leads you. Pray that God will help you be more responsive to His voice.

Read John 16:13. Pray about any situations that you need guidance from God. Ask for the Holy Spirit's counsel.

Read John 16:7-8. Confess in prayer any sin that is in your life. Let the Holy Spirit convict you and change you from the inside out.

Don't let the conversation stop here. Continue the conversation this week with your friends, family, or LifeGroup and online on Facebook, Twitter, and Church Online.

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With your Bible or at www.YouVersion.com, read Acts 1:4-5, 8.

In this passage Jesus tells us that when the Holy Spirit comes into our lives, we not only feel His presence, but He also gives us His power.

- Describe a time when you were aware of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Read 1 Corinthians 2:4-5.

These verses show us how the Holy Spirit gives us the power to share Christ boldly to others.

- When have you had a conversation with someone and the Holy Spirit gave you the words to speak?
- Who is the Holy Spirit prompting you to boldly share Christ with? What has been holding you back from sharing Christ?

Read Romans 8:26 and 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.

According to these scriptures, the Holy Spirit gives us power when we are weak.

- Share a time when you were weak and the Holy Spirit gave you power to overcome your weakness.

Read Romans 15:13 and Ephesians 3:16-19.

These verses show us that we receive hope and the ability to experience the fullness of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- How has experiencing the power Holy Spirit in your own life affected your relationship with Christ?
- What are some areas of your life that you are relying more on your strength rather than the power of the Holy Spirit?
- How can you begin today to rely more on the power of the Holy Spirit?

NEXT STEPS

You may want to choose one of these ideas to help you experience more of the power of the Holy Spirit during this series.

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Earlier, you identified someone that the Holy Spirit has been prompting you to boldly share Christ with. So this week, do it. Pray and ask for the Holy Spirit to strengthen you, calm you, and give you the right words to say as you share Christ with this person.

These prayer tips can guide your time alone with God each day. Praying with a friend or a small group might help you stick to it.

Pray and ask God to help you experience the power of the Holy Spirit in your life in deeper way. Open your heart up to the Holy Spirit.

Confess those areas in your life where you are struggling. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the strength to overcome these weaknesses.

Talk to God about any concerns you have and any trials you may be enduring. Allow the Holy Spirit to instill within you a spirit of hope.

Allow the Holy Spirit through prayer to strengthen and enrich every area of your life so that you may experience the fullness of God. Remember, He's praying for you too!

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With your Bible or YouVersion, read 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-7.

Paul shows us in the passage that each of us have been given unique spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit that are to be used to help one another.

- What was your reaction to hearing that God has spiritual gifts just for you?
- How does knowing that the Holy Spirit has given a spiritual gift just for you affect the way you view yourself and your relationship with God?

Read Romans 12:6-8.

In this passage, Paul describes the various ways we can see spiritual gifts working on our lives.

- What are your spiritual gifts? If you are not sure, what do you think your spiritual gifts might be?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-12.

These verses also list the various types of spiritual gifts and how they can be used to help one another.

- How did you discover your spiritual gifts? If you do not know what your gifts are, discuss some ways you can begin to uncover them.
- Share the things you've noticed in the past about each other that might help each of you uncover the gifts that God placed in you.

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11.

This passage encourages us to use our gifts to serve one another and to bring glory to God.

- Describe a time when you benefitted from someone using their spiritual gifts.
- How has God used your spiritual gifts to make an impact?

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Discover what your spiritual gifts are by taking an online spiritual gifts test like the one at www.gregwiens.com/gifts. You might also consider seeking advice from other Christians that are an active part of your life and gain their input on how they developed their spiritual gifts.

Use these prayer tips to guide your time with God this week to expand your conversations both in person and online.

Pray and ask God to reveal your spiritual gifts to you through the Holy Spirit.

Ask God to reveal to you the best way to use your spiritual gifts to help others and to bring glory to God.

Ask the Holy Spirit to show your family and friends what their spiritual gifts are. Even the youngest Christians have spiritual gifts!

Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit and giving each of us unique spiritual gifts. Spend time praising Him in prayer.

Ask God to show you some specific ways you can use your spiritual gifts in our church or in your personal ministry.

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With your Bible or YouVersion, read Acts 2:1-4.

This passage describes the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came and filled the early church giving them the ability to speak in tongues.

- Share your personal reactions to the gift of tongues. How did the message influence your beliefs?

Read 1 Corinthians 14: 4-5, 18, 23, 27-28.

Paul instructs us in these passages the purpose of speaking in tongues, which is designed to strengthen the person speaking and not the church.

- Why do you think speaking in tongues is such a controversial topic among believers?

Read Galatians 5:16-17 and Ephesians 5:15-18.

These scriptures tell us that we should not give into our sinful desires, but rather we should be filled with the Holy Spirit.

- How did the picture of getting drunk help expand your understanding of what a Spirit-filled life is like?
- Describe a time when you experienced being filled by the Holy Spirit. How did the experience affect your relationship with Christ?
- If you haven't had that experience yet, what do you think it would be like?

Read Galatians 5:22-26.

This passage instructs us to follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

- How does living a Spirit-filled life currently look in your own life? What steps can you take now to begin or continue to process of living a more Spirit-filled life?
- As you take your next steps towards a Spirit-filled life, what questions do you still have that you will seek out answer to?

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This week take time to focus on developing a more Spirit-filled life by praying and seeking a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit. Also, spend some time with someone who you feel is living a Spirit-filled life and learn from their insight and experience on how to fully experience the Holy Spirit.

