

Home Group Notes
Week of March 3

NOTES TO LEADERS: This week is about the work of the Holy Spirit to mature us. God has given us the greatest gift - Himself. This is a very condensed overview of the amazing third person of God. Most important this week is to keep the aim in mind = maturity. The role of the Holy Spirit is to help us know, love, and follow Jesus and bring glory to His name.

SHARE IT

When do you remember a BIG change in life direction? What changed?

NOTES TO LEADERS: The purpose of this question is to point toward the idea that the Holy Spirit in us brings about a new life in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17) Many things bring big change: getting married, having children, military, career, physical challenge, etc.

LEARN FROM THE BIBLE

Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit (God) to live inside us and “help” all who choose to believe / follow Jesus. What is the relationship and role of the Holy Spirit?

- John 14:12-21, 25-26; 15:4-10, 26; 16:13-14

NOTES TO LEADERS: So much to learn here. Be sure to walk through this if you have a new believer or someone who does not yet know Jesus/God. A few high points:

- The Holy Spirit (HS) is how Jesus is present with us.
- The HS brings the presence of Christ in us, empowers, leads, teaches, convicts, enables us to fulfill mission, grants access to God through prayer, etc.

Paul, the Apostle, commanded us to “be filled with the Holy Spirit” and compared it to being controlled by alcohol (Ephesians 5:18). How do we let the Holy Spirit lead/control our lives?

- Romans 12:1-2 **NOTES TO LEADERS: We must surrender to God as a living sacrifice, see ourselves as eternally belonging to /related to Him, trusting in Him to “transform” us.**
- Ephesians 5:18 **NOTES TO LEADERS: We are commanded to “be filled with the Spirit.” This is compared to the effect of alcohol – it begins to control us. In contrast, we allow God to control us.**
- 1 Thessalonians 5:19 **NOTES TO LEADERS: This is the opposite of the command to be filled. To “quench” the Spirit means to ignore or rebel against the efforts of the Spirit.**

What happens when we let the Holy Spirit lead our lives?

- 2 Corinthians 3:18 **NOTES TO LEADERS: He brings about transformation to be like Christ.**
- Galatians 5:24-25 **NOTES TO LEADERS: The Holy Spirit produces attitudes and actions of the relational character of God. These nine fruits represent the character that every believer can evidence as we submit / surrender to the Holy Spirit’s work.**
- Ephesians 5:18-21 **NOTES TO LEADERS: The filling of the Spirit results in us living in joyous worship and submissive fellowship with one another.**

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What is significant to you about the roles of the Holy Spirit? What is your experience?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This leads us to look back at Sunday's message and the Scriptures in this study. As people share their significance and experience, allow time for people to affirm their offerings.

What is it like for the Spirit to lead you? What helps you surrender? Can you tell when you 'take back control?'

NOTES TO LEADERS: This question requires people to be more revealing. Hopefully, mature believers will be real about their own experience. Please don't gloss over the struggle of daily surrender OR the victory and benefit of trusting / obeying the Spirit's leading.

Our Sunday speaker spoke of three evidences of surrender to the Holy Spirit: (1) Giving Him full control, (2) Growing demonstration of Jesus' character, and (3) Inner Joy. How are these connected to God's purposes and our mission (i.e. Rooted and Reaching)?

NOTES TO LEADERS: All that the Spirit does should benefit the believer and the mission of Christ. As the Spirit gains more control in our lives, demonstrates the character of Jesus, and fills us with joy, we become more like Christ – a witness in our world. Be sure to address how the Holy Spirit empowers and brings about both Rooted and Reaching.

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

Set aside time with God to ask, "Am I experiencing Your leading, Your fruit, and Your joy?"

NOTES TO LEADERS: Perhaps encourage people to share a specific application of what we are learning about the Holy Spirit. The APPLY IT THIS WEEK section is a suggestion of one application.

**Praying that the Spirit will teach and guide you,
Steve**