

## Living New | Week 8

### The Holy Spirit: Being Empowered as a Servant

Ask your group members to share something that especially stood out to them, that especially encouraged them, or that they found especially helpful from the message or FONL study material this week. If your group is large, you may only have time for four or five responses.

Ask your group members who (and how!) they encouraged as “homework” from last week’s LifeGroup study.

Start your session by listening to the song *Holy Spirit Rain Down* (download and play it or listen on YouTube). On a large Post-it, write, “What do we learn from the song *Holy Spirit Rain Down*?” As you play the song, ask your group members to take some notes as they listen to the lyrics. Then, after the song is over, write down their responses on the Post-it. Identify and articulate some goals and applications for your group time. Open your time together in prayer.

As a group, read through Ezekiel 37:1-14. Make the point that this section of Scripture opens with a reference to the Holy Spirit and closes with a reference to the Holy Spirit. Talk about the fact that the images of wind and breath are references to the Spirit. Make the point that although this passage is primarily speaking to and about Israel, the church today is “spiritual Israel” and that we can make application to our lives. Point out that we all have areas in our lives that are dry and more dead than we would like them to be. Ask each person to share about an area in his/her life that is dry and lifeless and in need of the Spirit’s enlivening power and presence. Jot down in a journal what each person says so you can make it a matter of prayer for them in the weeks ahead.

On a large Post-it, write down three incomplete sentences and give space for each person in your group to complete each sentence:

“Because the Spirit is God (2 Corinthians 13:14), I can . . .”

“Because the Spirit is a Person (Ephesians 4:30), I can . . .”

“Because the Spirit is holy (1 Corinthians 6:11), I can...”

Write down the responses of each person while making some applications and encouragements.

Create enough 8 ½ x 11 sheets with the title “Symbols of the Spirit” for everyone in your group. Write the words wind, rain, rivers, fire, oil, seal, and dove down the left side of the Post-it. Be familiar with the verses mentioned in Week 8, Day 2 that reference the symbols of the Holy Spirit. While you play the song, *Holy Spirit Rain Down* again, ask each person to draw a picture of the symbol and then next to the symbol write down what our response should be when the Holy Spirit functions according to that emblem or symbol in our lives. This should take about five minutes. Ask each person to come back and present to the group their responses and applications.

Read Ephesians 5:18-21. Print copies of the following article by Pastor John Piper.

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-to-be-filled-with-the-spirit>

As a group, read through the article or pages. Ask your group members to share what truths from the article they most need to apply based on some current significant challenge they're facing.

On a Post-it entitled "The Work of the Spirit," write down on the left-hand side the words *convicts, regenerates, baptizes, indwells, empowers, teaches, prays, guides*. Be familiar with the verses mentioned in Week 8, Day 3 that refer to the work of the Spirit. For the middle column, ask the question "When?" You're helping your members recognize that the first four works of the Holy Spirit happen at conversion. You're illustrating that the next four works of the Holy Spirit are ongoing activities. On the right-hand side, ask the question "So what?" Write down on the Post-it what the members of your group say about what should be our responses to the work of the Spirit.

Create a Post-it with the title "Practical Ways to be more . . ." On the left-hand side write down *Spirit-minded, Spirit-enlivened, Spirit-filled, and Spirit-led*. Ask your group members to read and discuss 2 Timothy 1:7, Acts 4:31, Acts 11:24, 1 Peter 1:1-2, and Galatians 5:22-23 as evidence that the Holy Spirit is working powerfully in their lives. Ask your group members to brainstorm habits and practices that will assist them to be more connected to the Holy Spirit.

**[Note:** To prepare for next week's LifeGroup study, complete CVC's Spiritual Gifts Inventory *then* ask each member to take it and bring their results. (It's important that you're familiar with your own spiritual gifts as the leader and that you're familiar with the assessment itself so you can help your group members if they need it.) The inventory can be found here:

<http://www.cvconline.org/spiritual-gifts-inventory/>

Close your time in prayer. Be sure to spend time asking for the filling of the Spirit.