



SIXTH GRADE

Discipleship Essentials Pathway

Discipleship Essentials Pathways

NEW VISION

DISCIPLESHIP ESSENTIALS PATHWAY

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Cover design: Farmshed Creative
Interior design: Farmshed Creative

Printed in the United States of America

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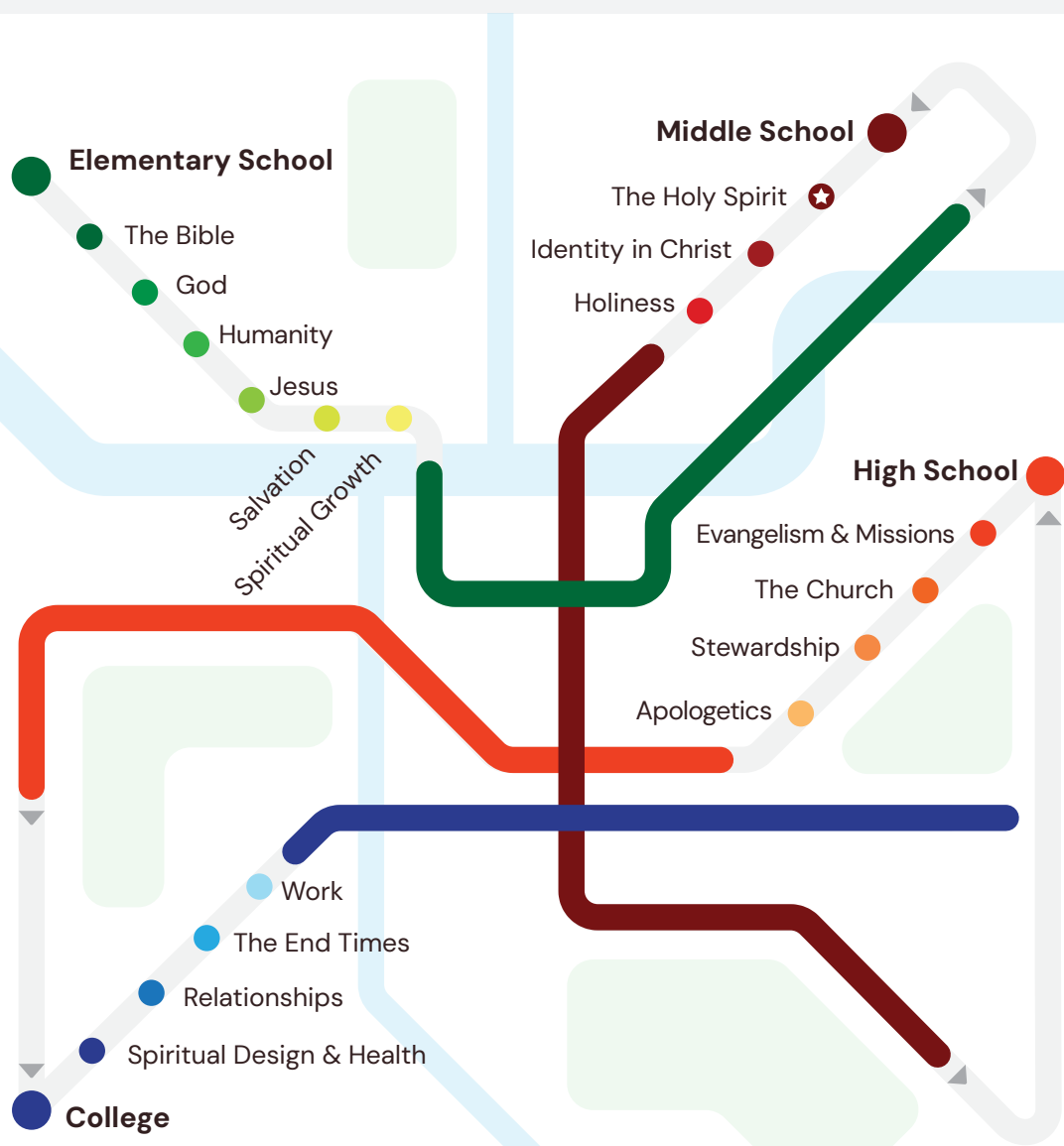
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The Holy Spirit Gives Spiritual Gifts

System Map

LEGEND

- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School
- College



Discipleship Essentials Pathway

Detailed Overview

Elementary Schoolers

- Kindergarten: The Bible
- First Grade: God
- Second Grade: Humanity
- Third Grade: Jesus
- Fourth Grade: Salvation
- Fifth Grade: Spiritual Growth

Middle Schoolers

- Sixth Grade: The Holy Spirit
- Seventh Grade: Identity in Christ
- Eighth Grade: Holiness

High Schoolers

- Ninth Grade: Evangelism and Missions
- Tenth Grade: The Church
- Eleventh Grade: Stewardship
- Twelfth Grade: Apologetics

College Students

- Freshman: Spiritual Design & Health
- Sophomore: Relationships
- Junior: The End Times
- Senior: Work

Introduction

Note: You may be a student going through this Pathway on your own. That is awesome! If you would like, continue through the Pathway on your own; but you may also consider doing so with a small group leader, friend, or mentor. This is also an opportunity to invite someone in your family to study with you. Feel free to reach out to the Student Ministry Team for help or guidance as you walk through your own discipleship journey.

To be a follower of Jesus means that we are to lead others to follow Jesus, too. Contrary to the spirit of the famous “The Buck Stops Here” placard on President Harry S. Truman’s desk, Jesus’ desk placard might have said something like “You’re One Link in a Long Chain.” You don’t have to disciple anyone alone; you’re an essential part of the process. To be a *disciple* of Jesus is to be a *discipler* of others, just as Jesus told us in what is known as the Great Commission:

Then Jesus came to them. He said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.”
– Matthew 28:18–20

Often, when we think of people discipling to fulfill the Great Commission, we think of men and women discipling other men and women at coffee shops, a collegiate minister discipling students at the student union, or perhaps a church staff discipling its members on the church campus. All of that is true, of course, but one of the most important places for discipleship is our homes. As a Christian, God has called you to disciple others; as a Christian parent or guardian, He has called you to disciple your children. This is the central point of what God told His people, the Israelites, through Moses:

“The commandments I give you today must be in your hearts. Make sure your children learn them. Talk about them when you are at home. Talk about them when you walk along the road. Speak about them when you go to bed. And speak about them when you get up” (Deuteronomy 6:6–7).

This is your highest calling as a parent and family—and it’s what we want to help you with through the *Discipleship Essentials Pathway*.

How to Use the Discipleship Pathway

The *Discipleship Essentials Pathway* is built on a framework of seventeen modules to be used one per year. This book includes Module 7: Holy Spirit and is designed to be used with sixth graders. Modules 1–6 are to be used for kindergartners through fifth graders. Modules 7–9 are to be used with sixth through eighth graders. Modules 10–13 are to be used with ninth through twelfth graders. And finally, Modules 14–17 are to be used with college students. Throughout the seventeen modules, you will have the opportunity to engage with the core doctrines of the Christian faith and explore many practical aspects of following Jesus.

Each module contains twelve units, one for each month beginning in August and ending in July of the following year. Here’s how to use the *Pathway*:

The First Week of August

STEP ONE

Choose a day and time when it is easiest to block out about fifteen minutes for a family devotion each week. Many families find dinner time or bedtime as the ideal times for family devotions. Of course, if you already have a regular family devotion time, that would be the best time to choose.

STEP TWO

During your family devotion time in the first week of August, open the *Discipleship Essentials Pathway* book to August’s content.

STEP THREE

Begin by reading the catechism to your family. A catechism is a method of instruction based on a question-and-answer format that has been used throughout church history. The catechism provides the main idea your family will focus on for the month. You may notice definitions or further inspections provided. These are provided to help your child learn these important terms or dive deeper into the topic.

STEP FOUR

Next, read the Bible story to your family either from the *Pathway* book or from a Bible. The NLT is used in Modules 7 through 13.

STEP FIVE

Now, it is time to read the devotional to your family. Discuss the standing discussion questions.

STEP SIX

Next, find the memory verse and prayer prompt for week 1. These will provide your focus for the rest of the week. Begin by reading the memory verse a few times, inviting your sixth grader to say as much with you as they can. Then, close your devotional time in prayer, using the prompt as a guideline for what to pray about. Of course, you can pray about more than that, but be sure to at least pray about the topic provided.

That's it! You're done.

You will notice that each unit concludes with a next step, challenging thought, or reflection questions. If you choose, you can use these during the week and on the rest of the family devotion days of the month.

During the week, look for opportunities to talk about the main ideas of the catechism, Bible story, and devotional you covered. This is in the spirit of Deuteronomy 6:7, which calls us to talk about God throughout the day in our homes. The goal is to help your child keep God at the top of the mind and deep down in the heart. Also, continue working on memorizing the memory verse and praying for the topic of the prayer prompt.

The Second, Third, and Fourth Weeks of August

STEP ONE

During your family devotion time on the second, third, and fourth weeks of the month, go over the catechism again, perhaps inviting your child to memorize it too, along with the memory verses.

STEP TWO

You do not need to read the Bible story or devotion again, but of course, you can if you want.

STEP THREE

Spend more time working on the memory verse.

STEP FOUR

Close your time in prayer, once again using the prayer prompt as your baseline.

The First Week of September

Once the calendar flips to September, it's time to move on to the next unit, repeating the process. Then, once July arrives, it will be time to get Module 8 to begin using that next August.

A FEW FINAL TIPS

If you have multiple children going through different modules, that's awesome! As a family, go through the lesson with the youngest child in the first week, and move to the second youngest the next week, and so on. As you move to the new lessons, review the others together as needed, and turn your prayer prompts into a prayer list!

If you miss a family devotion one week, that's okay! Give yourself grace and pick back up next week. Consistency over the long term is the key to family discipleship.

As you and your family grow more comfortable using the *Discipleship Essentials Pathway*, try to encourage your child or student to ask questions. Dialogue is always better than monologue when it comes to discipleship.

If you are just starting your journey using the *Discipleship Essentials Pathway* with this Module, you might consider using what you have missed during Christmas break, Spring break, or the summer as a short-term intensive, covering one unit per day instead of per month, and forgoing memorizing the memory verses. Of course, there's also nothing at all wrong with starting right where you are and moving forward without ever looking back!

If you already have a family devotions plan, or if you find one along the way, feel free to couple it with the *Pathway*. Do both on the same day, or perhaps choose a second day to stretch your discipleship efforts further throughout the week.

The *Discipleship Essentials Pathway* doesn't provide you with all the answers about our faith, but it should give you a solid framework from which you can explore additional questions as they come up.

The Gospel Message

In the beginning, God created the universe (Genesis 1:1). He formed light and darkness, land and sea, fish and birds, plants and animals. But on the final day of creation, He saved His best work for last: He made people. God created us in His image (Genesis 1:27) and designed us to love, trust, worship, and follow Him.

However, God didn't force us to love Him; He gave us a choice. We can choose to trust and obey Him, or we can go our own way. When we choose to go our own way instead of God's way, that's called sin, and sin breaks our relationship with God. The Bible tells us: "Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory" (Romans 3:23). The bad news is that our sin separates us from God, and we cannot fix this problem alone. We need help.

The good news is that God, in His great love, made a way for us to be forgiven through Jesus. God sent Jesus, His one and only Son, to live a perfect life and take the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross (John 3:6, 2 Corinthians 5:21). But He didn't stay dead. On the third day, He rose again, defeating sin and death so we could have new and eternal life in Him. Jesus did for us what we could never do for ourselves.

God now offers each of us the opportunity to be restored to a right relationship with Him. This requires us to turn away from sin and choose to put our faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord. The Bible tells us: "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9). We trust Jesus as Savior, because His death in our place is the only way we can be forgiven for our sins. We trust and follow Jesus as Lord, meaning we use our lives for Him above all else. When we trust Jesus, we receive forgiveness and are saved from the power and punishment of our sins.

If you're ready to follow Jesus, here's what you need to do:

01

Admit that you are a sinner in need of forgiveness.

02

Believe that Jesus is God's Son, who died for your sins and rose again.

03

Confess Jesus as your Savior and Lord, choosing to follow Him daily.

The following is an example of what to pray if you are ready to put your faith and trust in Jesus as your Savior and Lord today. The words themselves aren't special. It's your heart behind them if you believe it.

Dear God,

I know that You created me in Your image to love, trust, and follow You. But I confess that I have sinned against You. I have chosen my own way instead of Yours, and my sins have separated me from You. And I know that I cannot fix this problem on my own.

Thank You for loving me so much that You sent Your Son Jesus to die on the cross for my sins. I believe that He paid my punishment, and I believe that He rose from the dead, defeating sin and death so that I could have new life in Him.

Today, I turn away from my sin and I surrender my life to You. I ask for Your forgiveness and place my faith in Jesus as my Savior and Lord. Please change my heart, help me to follow You daily, and give me the strength to live for You.

Thank You for Your love and the gift of salvation.

In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

SIXTH GRADE

If you just prayed that prayer for the first time, don't keep it to yourself, share it with someone! Tell a parent, guardian, pastor, or trusted Christian friend. They would love to celebrate with you, encourage you, and help you to take your next steps in following Jesus.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Triune God. He is spirit, meaning He has no physical body. He lives inside believers and is God's power within us. The Holy Spirit has many roles, including giving spiritual gifts to every believer.

Bible Story

⁵ "But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. ⁶ Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you. ⁷ But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. ⁹ The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me. ¹⁰ Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. ¹¹ Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged."

¹² "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. ¹⁴ He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'"

— John 16:5–15

Discussion Questions

01 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?

02 What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?

03 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

Devotion

As Jesus prepared to leave His disciples, He promised them that they would have help in their efforts to continue spreading the gospel. Jesus even said it would be better for Him to leave the earth so that His disciples could have an “Advocate,” which means “Helper,” come to be with them individually and permanently (John 16:7). And the same is true for us! Imagine having God’s presence with you to help you each day. It’s almost too good to believe!

Although it can be hard at times to believe the wonderful gift we’ve been given in the Holy Spirit, everything Jesus promised indeed came true. Soon after Jesus went up to heaven, the Holy Spirit came to live within Jesus’ followers, and the Holy Spirit is still doing that today. When you trust in Jesus as your Savior and Lord, the Holy Spirit indwells you. But the Holy Spirit isn’t an impersonal

force; He’s the third Person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit thinks, desires, and feels emotions, the marks of being a person.

The Holy Spirit is a wonderful gift given to you. He has brought you new life in Jesus and He helps you grow in your relationship with Jesus. He reminds you of the amazing truths in God’s Word. He’s always there to see what you’re up to, sometimes nudging you toward God’s best for you and sometimes providing you with the comfort and encouragement you need. Plus, He gives you the strength to live in a way that shines a light on God for others to see. The Holy Spirit wants you to be the best follower of Jesus you can be. As you live each day, remember that you are never alone because of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit; God’s power and love are right there inside you!



Definition

Indwells: The Holy Spirit permanently lives inside believers, but He does not live inside nonbelievers.

WEEK ONE

Memory Verse

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't

recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. — John 14:16–17

Prayer

Thank God for giving you the Holy Spirit, who will never leave you and will guide you to truth.

WEEK TWO

Memory Verse

The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement

of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers. — Acts 9:31

Prayer

Praise God for the Holy Spirit's work to grow the church.

WEEK THREE

Memory Verse

And God confirmed the message by giving signs and wonders and various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit whenever he chose. — Hebrews 2:4

Prayer

Ask God to help you use the gifts the Holy Spirit has given you.

WEEK FOUR

Memory Verse

And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of

knowledge and the fear of the Lord. — Isaiah 11:2

Prayer

Thank God that all three Persons of the Trinity work together in perfect harmony in all things.



Reflection Questions

If you have questions your family cannot answer, explore the answer together, or ask a leader at church.

01 What do you understand about the Holy Spirit? What questions do you still have?

02 How does it make you feel knowing that the Holy Spirit is with you at all times if you have trusted in Jesus?

03 What one thing do you need most from the Holy Spirit right now?

Notes:

AUGUST

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Where is the Holy Spirit?

Where is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is active in the world around us, working to fulfill God's plan and bring God glory. At the same time, the Holy Spirit lives within every believer, working specifically in and through them. Only believers have the Holy Spirit permanently residing within them.

Bible Story

¹ On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. ² Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. ³ Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. ⁴ And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

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.

— Acts 2:1–4, 43–47

Discussion Questions

01 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?

02 What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?

03 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

Devotion

A construction site is a fascinating place filled with constant activity. Workers move left and right and up and down while materials are transported from one area to another. Unless you're part of the workforce or familiar with construction, it can look like chaos and be hard to understand exactly what is happening, even though it's clear that work is being done. But in fact, there is a plan in place, and the work is unfolding according to a clear and methodical process.

In a similar way, the Holy Spirit is always at work in the world, fulfilling God's plan. He's pointing nonbelievers to Jesus. He's restraining evil in the world (2 Thessalonians 2:7). And He's working inside of everyone who believes in Jesus, including you.

As Jesus was about to go to the cross, He assured His disciples that they would not be alone in His upcoming absence. Not only would the Holy Spirit continue to work in the world as He has since the beginning of time (Genesis 1:2), but now He would work within and through every believer.

Then, in Acts 2, the Holy Spirit came to live permanently inside believers for the first time.

Today, the Holy Spirit does the exact same thing. As a believer, you're part of God's plan to change the world. That might sound like too big of a job for you to handle, but God has sent the Holy Spirit to live within you so you can share the Good News with others as part of that plan. From the moment you trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives permanently within you, continually helping you grow in your faith and become more like Jesus. You may not always recognize what the Holy Spirit is doing, but He is always working for your good. So, listen to Him! The Holy Spirit is on your side, shaping you into something more beautiful and complete than ever before. When you feel alone, remember that the Holy Spirit—the very presence of God—lives inside you. When you feel powerless, remember that the Holy Spirit—the very power of God—lives inside you. Trust that the Holy Spirit is always present, and always believe in His work within you and through you!

WEEK ONE

Memory Verse

And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.
— Ephesians 4:30

Prayer

Thank God for giving you the Holy Spirit as a way to guarantee your salvation.

WEEK TWO

Memory Verse

But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. — John 15:26

Prayer

Pray that the Holy Spirit would remind you of God's promises.

WEEK THREE

Memory Verse

And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy

Spirit, whom he promised long ago.
— Ephesians 1:13

Prayer

Pray that the Holy Spirit would remind you of God's presence, working, and power.

WEEK FOUR

Memory Verse

But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the

Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) — Romans 8:9

Prayer

Pray that you would be reminded of the promise that the Holy Spirit brings, and be assured of your close relationship with God.



Next Steps

Remind yourself that the Holy Spirit lives within you! Leave a note on your refrigerator or a digital note on your phone that encourages you consistently to think about the truth that the Holy Spirit lives inside of you. Talk to Him, listen to Him, and ask Him to pray for you each day this month!

Notes:

SEPTEMBER

What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

What does the Holy Spirit do in our lives?

The Holy Spirit is God the Spirit who ministers to believers. He regenerates us, giving us new spiritual life. He empowers and equips us to live faithfully in the world. And He lives inside believers, helping us to understand, remember, and obey God's Word.

Bible Story

¹⁶ So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷ The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. ¹⁸ But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

¹⁹ When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

— Galatians 5:16–26

Discussion Questions

01 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?

02 What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?

03 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

Devotion

Everyone has desires and, for the most part, our actions are based on those desires. In short, we do what we *want* to do. Sometimes that leads us to make the right choices. Most often, though, that leads us to make unwise or selfish choices. The Bible says that the reason we have those desires is because of our sinful nature, or our “flesh.” Our sinful nature leads us down our own path, which always conflicts with what God wants. But this all changes when we put our faith in Jesus as our Savior and Lord. At that moment, the Holy Spirit comes to live within us, and our sinful nature no longer has to control us. Instead, the Holy Spirit wants to give us new desires; He wants to lead us toward what God wants. He wants to control our lives so that we can live the way God made us to live.

But there’s just one problem: Even after we’ve trusted in Jesus, we still have a sinful nature hanging around—like that one friend who always wants to pull you toward the bad choice, even though you both know it’s wrong. So, even though the Holy Spirit is packing divine power within us, we often find ourselves in an epic tug-of-war between the wise,

God-fearing side of our new selves and the side that just wants to stay stuck in our old, less-than ways.

Picture it this way: Our sinful nature wants to keep us stuck, replaying the same episode of old decisions and sinful desires. The Holy Spirit is ready to guide us toward something better. He wants to help us grow and be more like Jesus, but we’ve got to hand over the control and listen to His expert direction. But which will we choose? It’s a spiritual battle happening in our hearts and minds each day!

So what does the Holy Spirit do? He transforms us into who God wants us to be, but we must choose to work with Him, not against Him.

WEEK ONE**Memory Verse**

For the Lord is the Spirit, and
wherever the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom.

— 2 Corinthians 3:17

Prayer

Thank God for the freedom we
experience through the Holy Spirit.

WEEK TWO**Memory Verse**

After this prayer, the meeting place
shook, and they were all filled
with the Holy Spirit. Then they
preached the word of God with
boldness. — Acts 4:31

Prayer

Ask God to help you boldly tell
others about Jesus through the
Holy Spirit's power.

WEEK THREE**Memory Verse**

And this hope will not lead
to disappointment. For we
know how dearly God loves us,
because he has given us the Holy
Spirit to fill our hearts with his
love. — Romans 5:5

Prayer

Thank God for loving you and for
helping you to love others through
the Holy Spirit.

WEEK FOUR**Memory Verse**

Teach me to do your will, for you
are my God. May your gracious
Spirit lead me forward on a firm
footing. — Psalm 143:10

Prayer

Thank God for giving you the Holy
Spirit to help you stand on God's
truth and obey His Word.



Reflection Questions

01 What are some decisions you've made recently that have pursued your own way rather than God's?

02 How about decisions when the Spirit has helped you pursue God's way?

03 What can you do to rely on the Holy Spirit as you make decisions in the days ahead?



Further Inspection

The Holy Spirit cares for us in different ways and is an amazing gift to believers. In addition to guiding us, He regenerates, empowers, and sanctifies believers. He also teaches us, comforts us, unites us, intercedes for us, verifies our salvation, and gives us spiritual gifts.

Notes:

The Power of the Holy Spirit

How does the Holy Spirit's power help us as believers?

The power of the Holy Spirit is the ability and authority that God releases into the lives of every believer so that we may live godly and fruitful lives. All the eternal work we do to build God's kingdom happens through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Bible Story

¹ In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. ³ During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

⁴ Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. ⁵ John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶ So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"

⁷ He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. ¹⁰ As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

— Acts 1:1–11

Discussion Questions

01 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?

02 What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?

03 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

Devotion

When we become believers, God calls us to live in a profoundly different way. We are to be holy, just as God is holy (1 Peter 1:16). That means God has called us to be set apart from the world and sin. We do this for our good so we can show others God's glory. But this is easier said than done.

So then, when people around us make unwise and ungodly choices, how do we avoid temptation and live the right way? How do we hear God's words over the world's voices? How do we point those around us to Jesus? How do we know what is true? The power of the Holy Spirit is the answer to all of those questions.

When Jesus described how God the Father would send the Holy Spirit to His followers, He instructed them to go out and share the gospel with everyone around them. That must have been a scary prospect for those early Christians. Jesus Himself had just been crucified; surely it would be dangerous to preach about Jesus so soon after and in the very same city. Even still, approximately five hundred believers were given the instruction to spread the good news

to the entire world. But they would not be acting on their own. The Holy Spirit would fill them and empower them to work and serve. He would provide them with courage. He would give them the right words to say. He would equip them with the gifts needed to help those in need. All they had to do was obey.

The same is true for us. The Holy Spirit works within us to help us live a godly life and show God's love to others. He is also working in the hearts and minds of those who will receive the message we bring. It should bring us great comfort to know that God is always supporting us as we obey and glorify Him. So what should we do? We recognize that the Holy Spirit dwells inside us. We depend on His power and celebrate the truth that we are never alone. We refuse the pressure the enemy tries to impose on us, which suggests that everything relies solely on us. We find peace in our obedience, knowing that the Holy Spirit will produce all the good things that come from it.

WEEK ONE**Memory Verse**

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. — Ephesians 3:16

Prayer

Thank God for giving us the power of the Holy Spirit instead of leaving us to serve Him on our own.

WEEK TWO**Memory Verse**

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. — Romans 15:13

Prayer

Thank God for the courage that the Holy Spirit gives us.

WEEK THREE**Memory Verse**

Then he said to me, "This is what the Lord says to Zerubbabel: It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies." — Zechariah 4:6

Prayer

Ask God to help you rely on the power of the Holy Spirit instead of your own strength and ability.

WEEK FOUR**Memory Verse**

And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. — 1 Corinthians 2:4

Prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to empower your words in day to day life, and especially when you tell someone about Jesus.



Next Steps

What do you need the Holy Spirit's power to accomplish right now? Perhaps it is sharing your faith with a friend. Or maybe it's resisting an ongoing temptation in your life. Whatever it is, pray for the Spirit to empower you and ask God to keep you humble and reliant on Him. Then watch and see what God the Holy Spirit might do.

Notes:

Filled with the Holy Spirit

What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

To be “filled with the Holy Spirit” is when a believer allows the Holy Spirit to be in primary control of their life. When you place your faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord, the Holy Spirit permanently comes to live inside of you; however, you aren’t always filled with the Holy Spirit. We are filled with the Holy Spirit when we repent of sin and choose to submit to the Spirit.

Bible Story

¹ Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. ² Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

¹⁵ So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶ Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷ Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. ¹⁸ Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, ¹⁹ singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. ²⁰ And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

— Ephesians 5:1–2, 15–20

Discussion Questions

01 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?

02 What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?

03 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

Devotion

A balloon is a relatively inexpensive piece of latex rubber filled with possibilities. You can find balloons at parties, in science labs, and even in a surgeon's toolkit (seriously). They appear in art exhibits, float high in the sky, and gather in plastic bags tucked away in drawers. Balloons are fantastic, but their usefulness and effectiveness depend not just on the balloon itself but also on what they are filled with.

If you fill a balloon with nothing, it's relatively useless. Fill it with air, and you can play a fun indoor volleyball game. Fill a few with water, and you create outdoor chaos. Or fill them with helium for a decorative touch. However, if you fill them with thumbtacks, they become dangerous objects with no positive use.

Just as the effectiveness of a balloon depends on its contents, we too can fill ourselves with various things—some beneficial, some uplifting, and others downright harmful or destructive. But there's one thing that is always best for us to be filled with: God instructs us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. To be filled with the Holy Spirit means to be

controlled by Him. And that's exactly what we need. We don't need the world around us to control us. We don't need our friends to control us. And we don't even need to control ourselves. The Holy Spirit needs to be the one working in us and leading our lives.

Every believer has the Holy Spirit residing within them, but we must allow Him to take control. We shouldn't just let Him live within us, forcing Him into a dusty corner of our heart; we need Him to be the president of our lives. This occurs when we repent of sin and ask God to guide us away from our struggles and sinful desires. When we do this, something wonderful happens. We are much more able to understand how God wants us to live. We can stay attuned to His Word. And then we can take steps of obedience, trusting that the guidance of the Holy Spirit is best for us. When we choose to live by the power of the Holy Spirit and seek His way over our own, we can find ourselves filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered to live the way God desires.

WEEK ONE**Memory Verse**

Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit,
returned from the Jordan River.
He was led by the Spirit in the
wilderness. — Luke 4:1

Prayer

Thank God for giving us the
same Holy Spirit who filled
and guided Jesus.

WEEK TWO**Memory Verse**

Don't be drunk with wine, because
that will ruin your life. Instead,
be filled with the Holy Spirit.
— Ephesians 5:18

Prayer

Ask God to help you give control of
your life to the Holy Spirit each day.

WEEK THREE**Memory Verse**

And the believers were filled
with joy and with the Holy
Spirit. — Acts 13:52

Prayer

Ask God to give you joy through
the Holy Spirit no matter
the circumstance.

WEEK FOUR**Memory Verse**

Commit everything you do to the
Lord Trust him, and he will help
you. — Psalm 37:5

Prayer

Thank God for being trustworthy
and for giving you the Holy Spirit to
remind you of this important truth.



Next Steps

If you aren't allergic to chocolate milk and like drinking it, make a tall glass. Pour the milk in first, but when you put the chocolate syrup in, don't stir it. Then take a small sip. What does it taste like? Probably regular milk, right? That's because the chocolate is at the bottom of the glass! Now, take a spoon and give it a stir, then take another sip. Huge difference, right? This is a picture of the Holy Spirit filling us. At first, the chocolate (Holy Spirit) was in the glass of milk, but it wasn't controlling it. But when you stirred it (repenting of sin and asking the Spirit to guide you), the chocolate (Holy Spirit) took the entire glass over.

Does the Holy Spirit control your actions and thoughts? Do you allow Him to control your life?

Notes:

DECEMBER

The Holy Spirit Sanctifies Us

How does the Holy Spirit change us?

The Holy Spirit changes us through the process of sanctification; that is, we are made to be more like Jesus. The Holy Spirit gradually increases our holiness and obedience. We are coworkers in this action, as we submit to the Holy Spirit's desires instead of our own.

Bible Story

³ By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. ⁴ And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

⁵ In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge,⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness,⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.

⁸ The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

— 2 Peter 1:3–8

Discussion Questions

01 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?

02 What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?

03 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

Devotion

Whenever someone remodels a home, they take it from its existing condition and make it better to suit the needs and desires of those who live there. Often, you wouldn't be able to tell any difference from the outside, but things are totally different on the inside. It is a positive internal transformation. When we become followers of Jesus, we transform, too; the Holy Spirit remodels us in a process called sanctification.

In sanctification, the Holy Spirit changes us to make us more like Jesus. In 2 Peter 1:3–8, Peter shared about how the Holy Spirit has granted us everything we need for a life of Christlikeness. Now, Peter knew all about what the Holy Spirit could do. The Spirit radically changed Peter. The once impulsive, hot-headed fisherman became a bold apostle. When the Holy Spirit steps into your life at salvation, He begins making room for a life defined by godliness. It's like the Holy Spirit remodels your heart and mind. He throws out some of your thoughts. He reorganizes some old desires. He orders brand new actions and

replaces what you had before. It's hard work!

But this is work that God wants the Holy Spirit to do in our lives. It's not always easy, but it makes us better. The Holy Spirit identifies what isn't good for you and clears it away, just as Peter experienced a radical change, from being a man filled with doubt and fear to becoming one filled with courage and purpose. This transformation doesn't happen all at once; God gradually changes us little by little. What previously seemed permanent and unchangeable—the most stubborn parts of us—are replaced with qualities that mirror the heart of Christ. In his second epistle, Peter tells us what God adds to our faith in Jesus (which comes first and is most important because it saves us), and that is “everything we need for living a godly life” (1 Peter 1:3). The Holy Spirit gives us goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, and love. These qualities were lived out perfectly by Jesus and are best for us.

Remember, becoming more like Jesus isn't about losing parts of who you are; rather it's about making room for who you are meant to become. Don't hold onto any part of your life too tightly, but let the Holy Spirit discard old habits and negative thoughts and put in something better—the new life and characteristics God offers. Soon you will notice that even the spaces once occupied by weakness are filled with God's strength and love.

So, trust the Holy Spirit as He continually works within you. Embrace the changes with gratitude, knowing each adjustment draws you closer to a life reflecting God's glory. Day by day, the Holy Spirit prepares and equips you to live like Jesus. Clear out that old carpet and those broken cabinets, and let God move His newness in!



Definition

Sanctification: This is a long-term gradual process of growing in holiness to be more like Jesus.

The word *sanctification* is rooted in the same word as *holy*, meaning to be set apart. You might be aware of this term because some churches call the place where worship occurs the *sanctuary*. That's the space in a church building that is set apart for worship.

Epistle: This is another word for a letter. The New Testament has four main genres, or types of writing. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are called Gospels, which are sort of like biographies. Acts is a book of history. Revelation is called an apocalypse, a writing that has lots of prophecy and imagery. Finally, all the other books from Romans through Jude are called epistles, or letters, written to churches and individuals.

WEEK ONE

Memory Verse

Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.
— 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Prayer

Thank God for declaring you holy and blameless in Jesus and for giving you the Holy Spirit to help you live accordingly.

WEEK TWO

Memory Verse

As for us, we can't help but thank God for you, dear brothers and sisters loved by the Lord. We are always thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation—a salvation that came

through the Spirit who makes you holy and through your belief in the truth. — 2 Thessalonians 2:13

Prayer

Thank God for saving you through the sacrifice of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit.

WEEK THREE

Memory Verse

If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.
— 2 Timothy 2:21

Prayer

Ask God to use the Holy Spirit to help you turn away from sin and impurity.

WEEK FOUR

Memory Verse

For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time. — Hebrews 10:10

Prayer

Ask God to help you release those areas in your life that you need Him to work on.



Reflection Questions

01 What are some areas where you have seen the Holy Spirit remodeling your heart, mind, and life?

02 What are some areas that you recognize the Holy Spirit needs to go to work in?

JANUARY

03 How does it make you feel knowing that you are a work in progress and God isn't done with you yet?

The Holy Spirit Helps Us

How does the Holy Spirit help us when we sin?

One way the Holy Spirit helps believers is by leading us to truth. When we are outside of God's design for us—that is, when we participate or live in sin, the Holy Spirit reminds us of God's commands in Scripture and that we are called to Holy living.

Bible Story

¹⁷ With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. ¹⁸ Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. ¹⁹ They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.

²⁰ But that isn't what you learned about Christ. ²¹ Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, ²² throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³ Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴ Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

²⁵ So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. ²⁶ And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

²⁸ If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. ²⁹ Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

³⁰ And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

— Ephesians 4:17–32

Discussion Questions

01 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?

02 What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?

03 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

Devotion

Does your family have a dog, or have you seen someone walking a dog down the street? Dog walking can be a chore, but it works well when the dog is willing to be led. Ideally, the dog would walk next to the owner, following their every move and looking to them for direction. However, dog walking becomes difficult when the dog is in front of the human, doing their own thing: sniffing, pulling away, chasing other animals, and so on. There can be many different reasons for the behavior, but dog trainers will tell you there must be trust and dependency between the dog and its human. When that happens (along with some other tips and tricks, and maybe a doggy treat), everything works—the relationship is what it was designed to be.

Now, we aren't dogs, but like a pet dog, we were created to need a leader. We were made to be led by God, with Him in control of our lives. Sometimes we think that submitting to God means just a one-time commitment of our lives. It's certainly true that submission to God requires a one-time commitment when we trust in Christ, but it's also much more than that. Submitting to God is

a day-by-day choice as well. Every day, God leads believers through the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit desires to lead us to the truth, direction, and wisdom in the Bible. When we walk according to God's rules, the Holy Spirit encourages us to keep going. But when we take steps outside of God's rules, the Holy Spirit pulls us back by reminding us of what God says. Think about a friend who calls you on the phone when they hear you're making unwise choices; the Holy Spirit likewise speaks to us through God's Word and our thoughts because He loves us. The more we read our Bibles and spend time listening in prayer, the more the Holy Spirit reminds us of God's truths in our thoughts. In other words, the more we walk with Him, the more we stay in step with Him.

Just as we trust Jesus' words because He is God and He spoke only what came from God the Father, we can trust what the Holy Spirit says and where He leads. Jesus told this to the disciples in John 16:13: "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future."

WEEK ONE**Memory Verse**

So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord. — 1 Thessalonians 1:6

Prayer

Thank God for the joy and comfort the Holy Spirit gives, even in difficult times.

WEEK TWO**Memory Verse**

Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. — Ephesians 4:23

Prayer

Ask God to guide your thoughts, attitudes, and actions through the Holy Spirit's prompting.

WEEK THREE**Memory Verse**

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. — John 16:13

Prayer

Thank God for His gift of the Holy Spirit to help you know what is true.

WEEK FOUR**Memory Verse**

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. — Romans 8:14

Prayer

Ask God to help you follow the Holy Spirit's leading, wherever He directs you.



Next Steps

Try to be aware of and sensitive to what the Holy Spirit is telling you as you go about your day. Take a few minutes during your quiet time every day and be still and listen for the Holy Spirit's correction and guidance.

Notes:

The Holy Spirit Teaches Us

How does the Holy Spirit teach us?

The Holy Spirit uses the Bible to teach us and guide us. He teaches us by helping us understand the Bible when we read it. He helps us remember it and apply it to our lives.

Bible Story

²⁶ I am writing these things to warn you about those who want to lead you astray. ²⁷ But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ.

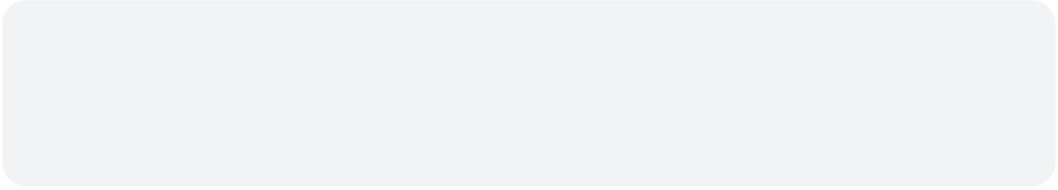
²⁸ And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame.

²⁹ Since we know that Christ is righteous, we also know that all who do what is right are God's children.

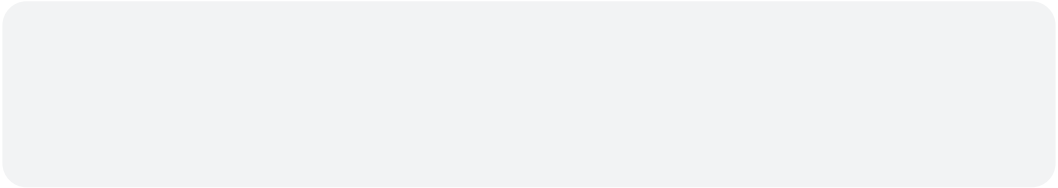
— 1 John 2:26–29

Discussion Questions

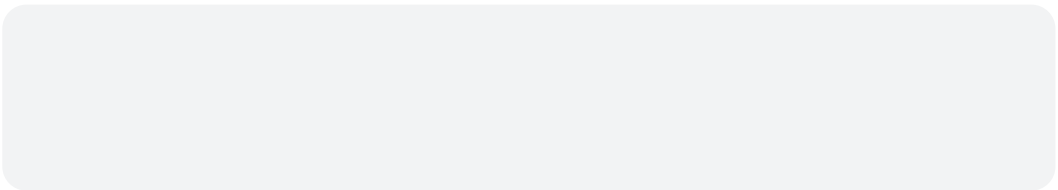
01 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?



02 What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?



03 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?



Devotion

Near the end of His time with them, Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would come and help them understand the truth. In John 16:13, it says, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard." This promise means that the Holy Spirit doesn't leave us to interpret the Bible alone; He is with us to help us grasp the important truths of God's Word. When we read the Bible, the Holy Spirit works in our minds and hearts to help us notice truths we might miss.

Life can be tough, especially when we feel tempted or confused. During these times, the Bible can comfort and guide us. In the book of 1 John, the apostle John reminds us of what Jesus told the disciples: the Holy Spirit will help teach us the truth. He does this mainly by reminding us of God's words and promises. The Holy Spirit is there to encourage us that when we live out God's Word, with His power, we can do more than we could ever imagine. And, just like a good friend who points out our mistakes, the Holy Spirit

gently returns us to the important lessons in the Bible. Even when we feel weak or distracted, we can keep God's words in mind. In every trial or decision, the Spirit helps us recall the lessons we've learned, making the Bible a consistent source of guidance and hope.

An amazing blessing of the Holy Spirit is that He shows you what you need at that moment. You may have read the same Bible passage as a friend has, or heard the same message as someone in church, yet each of us can take away different and equally true applications. The Holy Spirit reveals what we need as individual followers of Jesus at just the right time. He can do this because He lives within us, providing personal teaching for every believer.

So be encouraged as you read God's Word, knowing that the Holy Spirit within you will help you understand and apply what you read. When He speaks, listen, knowing He speaks only truth. When He guides, follow, knowing He guides you only to what is best. The Holy Spirit teaches you to become more like Jesus.

WEEK ONE

Memory Verse

Show me the right path, O Lord;
point out the road for me to follow.
Lead me by your truth and teach
me, for you are the God who saves

me. All day long I put my hope in
you. — Psalm 25:4–5

Prayer

Ask God to help you follow the
Holy Spirit as He leads you down
the right path.

WEEK TWO

Memory Verse

When we tell you these things, we
do not use words that come from
human wisdom. Instead, we speak
words given to us by the Spirit,

using the Spirit's words to explain
spiritual truths. — 1 Corinthians 2:13

Prayer

Thank God for the words we have in
the Bible that we can trust because
they came through the Holy Spirit.

WEEK THREE

Memory Verse

Take hold of my instructions; don't
let them go. Guard them, for they
are the key to life. — Proverbs 4:13

Prayer

Ask God to help you love His
commands and to live them,
realizing that they hold life in them.

WEEK FOUR

Memory Verse

But you have received the Holy
Spirit, and he lives within you, so
you don't need anyone to teach
you what is true. For the Spirit
teaches you everything you need
to know, and what he teaches is
true—it is not a lie. So just as he

has taught you, remain in fellowship
with Christ. — 1 John 2:27

Prayer

Ask God to help you trust
completely in what the Holy
Spirit teaches you, knowing He
only teaches truth.



Definition

Interpret: To interpret the Bible means to understand what it means. The goal of interpreting the Bible is to understand what the original writer meant by what he wrote to the original recipients of what he wrote. All Scripture has one proper interpretation, but many different ways to apply that in our lives today.



Next Steps

As you spend time with God in His Word each day, follow the Holy Spirit's guidance:

- 01** Pray while reading the Bible: Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's Word.
- 02** Think about biblical truths: Be open and let the Holy Spirit remind you of God's promises during tough times.
- 03** Use His guidance: Trust that the Spirit will show you how the Bible applies to your life. Follow His direction.

Notes:

MARCH

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The Holy Spirit Comforts Us

How does God help us when we experience hard times?

In our time of need, the Holy Spirit lovingly comforts us. He reminds us of the unshakable joy we always possess because of our standing before God through faith in Jesus. God's love and favor are assured because Jesus secured our status as God's children.

Bible Story

¹³ I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

— Romans 15:13

Discussion Questions

01 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?

02 What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?

03 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

Devotion

Have you ever witnessed someone you know get hurt right in front of you? Maybe they fell and scraped their knee or tripped and bruised their elbow. In that moment when they were in pain, what did you do? Chances are, you approached them to see what they needed. Perhaps you ran to find a nurse, fetched a band-aid, or offered an encouraging pat on the back. If you helped them during their time of need, you comforted them. Likewise, when we face challenging times, having someone to comfort us can drastically help us through the situation, even when the issue may be something we cannot fix. That is one of the wonderful jobs of the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus was about to go to the cross and would soon be leaving the disciples afterward, He told them that God was going to send the Holy Spirit to them. The Greek word used in John 15 is *paraclete*. This term can be translated in various ways, but one of its definitions is “the Comforter.” Surely, the disciples would have needed comfort in that moment as their teacher and leader,

Jesus, was about to leave them.

However, Jesus assured them that God would not leave them alone and would provide someone to help them through the trials to come.

The Holy Spirit would comfort them, meaning He would bring them peace, joy, and encouragement through His presence. He does the same for you!

In Romans 15, Paul wrote that the Holy Spirit comforts us through confident hope. During tough times, we must remember that God loves us and is working for our good, even when we cannot see how the situation will unfold. The Holy Spirit reassures us that God is close and that our relationship with Him, through faith in Jesus, is unbreakable. Because you have trusted in Jesus, you can experience joy even when life’s circumstances are far from ideal. You hold the promise of God’s power in your life, which motivates you to keep going and rely on Him. The Holy Spirit comforts and says, “It’s okay! God has you!” When we remember this, we can gain the strength to keep moving forward, even when life tries to wear us down.

WEEK ONE**Memory Verse**

Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. — Psalm 23:4

Prayer

Thank God for giving us comfort through the Holy Spirit when we are fearful.

WEEK TWO**Memory Verse**

He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.
— 2 Corinthians 1:4

Prayer

Thank God for comforting us through the Holy Spirit, and ask Him to help you comfort those around you.

WEEK THREE**Memory Verse**

I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. — John 14:27

Prayer

Ask God to continue to supply you with the Holy Spirit's peace as you live each day.

WEEK FOUR**Memory Verse**

For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. — Romans 14:17

Prayer

Ask God to fill your heart with abounding joy from the Holy Spirit.



Definition

Greek: Most of the New Testament was written in an ancient form of Greek, called *koine Greek*. A few words, like *abba* (Mark 14:36), were written in Aramaic, the spoken language in Israel of that day. The Old Testament was written mostly in Hebrew, with a few sections in Aramaic.



Next Steps

- 01** This week, whenever you are having a difficult time, take a moment and pray that God would shower you with the Holy Spirit's comfort.
- 02** Reflect on some ways you need to be comforted in your life and consider if you are depending on God for that comfort, or if you are depending on someone or something else.
- 03** The next time you see a Christian friend struggling, take time to remind them of the comfort brought by their relationship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

Notes:

APRIL

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The Holy Spirit Empowers Us

How does the Holy Spirit empower believers?

The Holy Spirit is God's power within believers, giving us the ability to live a godly life, serve others, and see things through God's perspective. He equips us with knowledge and courage to play a part in building God's kingdom.

Bible Story

¹ While Peter and John were speaking to the people, they were confronted by the priests, the captain of the Temple guard, and some of the Sadducees.

² These leaders were very disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead. ³ They arrested them and, since it was already evening, put them in jail until morning. ⁴ But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so the number of men who believed now totaled about 5,000.

⁵ The next day the council of all the rulers and elders and teachers of religious law met in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and other relatives of the high priest. ⁷ They brought in the two disciples and demanded, "By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?"

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of our people, ⁹ are we being questioned today because we've done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed? ¹⁰ Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed

by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, 'The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.'

¹² There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."

¹³ The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing right there among them, there was nothing the council could say.

— Acts 4:1–14

Discussion Questions

01 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?

02 What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?

03 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

Devotion

Captain Planet was a 1990s television show about five teenagers who received rings that gave them special powers. They fought bad guys, but not in the way you would normally see; they fought against people who were polluting the planet. A pig-man who eats pizza and pours grease everywhere, a villain made of rocks specializing in radioactive waste, or a super-polluter who ruined the earth by cutting down trees and creating smog; these were the enemies of Captain Planet and the Planeteers. Each teenager was granted their own special ability through their rings: Earth, Fire, Wind, Water, and Heart. When combined, they summoned the superhero character of the show, Captain Planet. No matter what evil forces assembled against them, they managed to emerge victorious for the good of our planet.

As followers of Jesus, our power is not granted through a unique ring but rather through the Holy Spirit, who lives inside each of us. God wants us to use the power He gives us for the good of the people on our planet, not just the planet itself. With the power of the Holy Spirit, we can speak boldly and lovingly about what

Jesus has done for us. We can share the hope and transformation of Jesus' gift: the offer of salvation and forgiveness. We can tell our friends and family about how our lives have changed. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to do this by increasing our courage, helping us speak, and helping us understand when, where, and how we should share.

In Acts 4, Peter and John boldly speak the good news of Jesus. They shared with everyone in the streets and in the temple. Many people heard their words and believed in Jesus. The council and the religious leaders were shocked that Peter and John could speak such a powerful message—after all, they were just regular guys. But the council members couldn't see that Peter and John were not working on their own. They had a power: the person of the Holy Spirit lived inside of them. Because of the Holy Spirit, their words were understood and believed. It was His power, not their own, which made the difference.

The pressure isn't all on us! Over and over, the Bible shows us that God equips those whom He calls.

That means He gives us the power to do what He's called us to do. The Holy Spirit provides that power for all followers of Jesus. We need to use the power of the Holy Spirit for the good of those around us. And remember, like the Planeteeers, our eternal victory over our enemies

is secured. Because of what Jesus did, Satan is defeated now and will one day be permanently and fully defeated for all to see. Right now, our fight is to show Jesus to everyone we meet, and we have the Holy Spirit's power to help us do that.



Challenging Thought

The Holy Spirit gives us power; God's help in times of need. With the Holy Spirit empowering you, what can you do this week to show someone Jesus?

WEEK ONE

Memory Verse

A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.
— 1 Corinthians 12:7

Prayer

Thank God for giving us spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit that we can use to grow the church.

WEEK TWO

Memory Verse

Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to

God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. — Hebrews 9:14

Prayer

Thank God for the Holy Spirit's role in Jesus' work on the cross, through which we are forgiven and receive life.

WEEK THREE

Memory Verse

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will

see, that the oppressed will be set free." — Luke 4:18

Prayer

Thank God for the Holy Spirit's work through Jesus during His earthly ministry.

WEEK FOUR

Memory Verse

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. — Romans 8:26

Prayer

Ask God to help you pray with deeper trust and conviction, knowing that the Holy Spirit is helping you.

Notes:

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The Holy Spirit Unites Us

How does the Holy Spirit unite believers?

The Holy Spirit lives within every believer, creating a community of Christians called the church. The Holy Spirit creates a unifying bond of love between all believers, with the goal of the church living in harmony with one another despite it being so diverse.

Bible Story

¹² The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. ¹³ Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

— 1 Corinthians 12:12–13

Discussion Questions

01 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?

02 What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?

03 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

Devotion

Did you know that tomatoes aren't vegetables? You can find them in salads, on sandwiches, and on pizza, and some are even green, but they still aren't vegetables. You can even deep fry them in batter and eat them with dinner; how in the world are they *not* a vegetable?

The truth is tomatoes are a fruit, not a vegetable. They are considered fruits because they have seeds and come from the flowering part of a plant after pollination. Those seeds help plants reproduce. Because of this, what a fruit has on the inside is its most important characteristic, and it is what all fruits share in common.

Even though God made every person unique, we have much in common as believers. We have more in common with other believers than with anyone else because of the presence of the Holy Spirit within us. That means that as brothers and sisters in Christ, we are part of a large and diverse family, just as tomatoes are part of a large and diverse family of fruits. Although families can be different, sometimes arguing and fighting and other times sharing affection and having fun, there is still something greater than all of the positive emotions that unite us, and that is the Holy Spirit. As believers, we should be encouraged to be an important part of such a large family of faith; it means there are literally millions of people around the world who are for us.

WEEK ONE**Memory Verse**

I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be

of one mind, united in thought and purpose. — 1 Corinthians 1:10

Prayer

Ask God to help you love others in the church and to be one with them through the power of the Holy Spirit.

WEEK TWO**Memory Verse**

Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. — 1 Corinthians 12:13

Prayer

Thank God for forming one church with people from every tongue, tribe, and nation, and for the Holy Spirit's work to hold it together.

WEEK THREE**Memory Verse**

Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. — Ephesians 4:3

Prayer

Ask God to help you allow the Holy Spirit to unite you with other followers of Jesus.

WEEK FOUR**Memory Verse**

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each

other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. — Philippians 2:1–2

Prayer

Thank God for the Holy Spirit's work to hold the church together as it works on its one mission to bring glory to God.



Reflection Questions

The next time you get frustrated or irritated with another Christian, focus on the things that unify all believers and pray that God would remind you that they are your sibling in Christ.

01 What do you have in common with other believers?

02 Reflect on what it means as a believer to be a part of the body of Christ. How does that challenge you?

03 How does that encourage you?

Notes:

JUNE



The Holy Spirit Gives Spiritual Gifts

What are spiritual gifts?

Spiritual gifts are various special abilities given to believers by God through the Holy Spirit. These gifts help followers of Jesus serve and honor God as they build the church and accomplish God's plans.

Bible Story

⁴ There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. ⁶ God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

⁷ A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. ⁸ To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. ⁹ The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. ¹⁰ He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. ¹¹ It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

— 1 Corinthians 12:4–11

Discussion Questions

01 What do these verses tell us about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?

02 What does this tell us about ourselves or other people?

03 Based on these verses and truths, what should I stop doing, start doing, or keep doing?

Devotion

Which superpower is the best? Is it the ability to fly or the strength to pick up a bridge? Perhaps it's being able to run super fast or become invisible. While these abilities capture our imagination when we see them on TV and in the movies, they're not real. We wish they were, but they are all imaginary. But what if every believer had a unique superpower—a spiritual gift God gave them?

The Bible tells us that this isn't imaginary; it's real. Every follower of Jesus has been given a unique ability to use in building God's Kingdom. On the big screen, superpowers are often portrayed as tools for personal glory or for saving the world with flashy displays of power. But spiritual gifts are to be used humbly to encourage others, share the gospel, and glorify God. In 1 Corinthians 12, we are reminded that the gifts we are given may be very different, but they all have two things in common: The gifts we have received are to help each other, and they are to bring God glory.

Just as each superhero possesses a unique ability that helps their team, each spiritual gift plays a vital role

in the church. Whether teaching, serving, encouraging, or leading, your gift is your "superpower"—purposefully designed for serving and unity. Some may have the quiet strength of hospitality, while others lead loudly with a gift of teaching. This variety is intentional; it shows God's careful plan. His church is a beautiful construction where each piece is important and needed. Your gift, no matter what it is, plays a role in building the church and spreading God's love.

Do you know your spiritual gift? If you do, it's time to put it to use. You can serve in your local church, community, or even with friends and family. You just can't let it remain hidden beneath the surface. Ask an adult to help you find the best ways to use what God has given you. And, of course, ask God for wisdom and guidance. Embrace the uniqueness of your calling, and remember that even the smallest acts of service can transform lives and change eternities. If you aren't sure about your spiritual gift, check out the Next Steps below.

WEEK ONE**Memory Verse**

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. — 1 Peter 4:10

Prayer

Thank God for giving us various spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit.

WEEK TWO**Memory Verse**

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. — Galatians 5:13

Prayer

Ask God to help you lovingly serve others through the gifts the Holy Spirit gives.

WEEK THREE**Memory Verse**

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many. — Matthew 20:28

Prayer

Ask God to help you grow in selflessness through the power of the Holy Spirit.

WEEK FOUR**Memory Verse**

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. — Romans 12:6

Prayer

Ask God to develop your spiritual gift through the Holy Spirit's work in and through you.



Next Steps

If you're unsure of your spiritual gift, New Vision has a resource you can use to help identify it. Scan this QR code for a direct link.



You can also take an alternate online quiz (such as one on spiritualgiftsassessment.org). Once you discover your spiritual gift, take a step to put it into action. If you need additional help, reach out to a leader or pastor for guidance on finding a place to serve.

Notes:

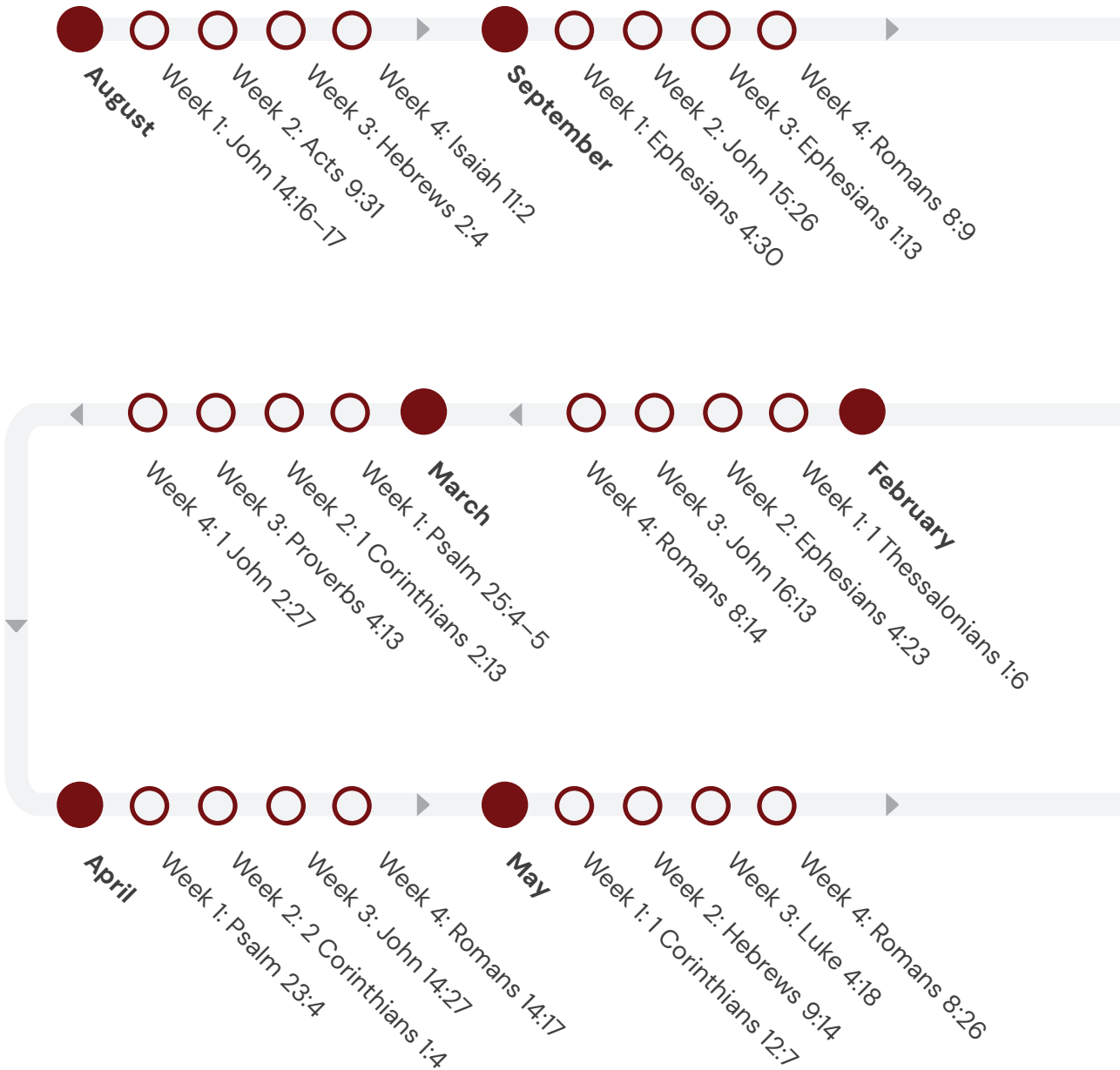
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Memory Verse Tracking Log



SIXTH GRADE





NEW VISION