

REVIVAL

WHO is the Holy Spirit?

Day 1: The Holy Spirit is eternal

Read Genesis 1

The Holy Spirit didn't magically appear in the New Testament when Jesus ascended to heaven. God's Spirit is eternal, and has no beginning or end. In our scripture today about the formation of the world, verse 2 says the Spirit of God was "hovering" in the darkness over the earth before anything was formed. The Spirit of God created order from the chaos of that unformed earth. Then again, in verse 26, God says "Let **US** make human beings in **OUR** image, to be like **US**". This word "us" is God expressing Himself as a Holy trinity. The trinity includes God the Father, Son, AND the Holy Spirit. We are made in the image of all three equal parts of who God is, including His Holy Spirit.

- Did you discover any false or incomplete views of God, or of the Holy Spirit, during your reading today? How did it change your view of who God really is?
- When you read that the Spirit was there in the beginning, are there also areas in your own life that you need to remember - "The Spirit is ALREADY there!"?
- How does it change your view of God's power over the chaos in your own life, if God's Spirit was able to create order from the chaos of an unformed world?

Day 2: The Holy Spirit is God

Read 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

The Holy Spirit isn't an "It", a ghost, or a mythical character that comes and goes like the wind. Just as we discussed yesterday, the Holy Spirit is **God**. God's Spirit is 100% equal to God the Father, and God the Son (Jesus). All three parts of God are equally complete, powerful, omnipotent, omnipresent, AND equal parts God.

- How have you imagined the Holy Spirit in the past? Did you imagine a force, power, a gut feeling like a "6th sense", or something a little scary or intimidating?

User Guide:

How to use this study guide:

- **Pray** : Ask God to reveal Himself to you.
- **Read** : Read the daily scripture, take notes, and write down any questions or thoughts that the Spirit reveals to you.
- **Study** : Read the daily study section and prayerfully answer the discussion questions.
- **Act** : Use the "Spirit in Action" section each week to look for ways to experience the power of the Holy Spirit in your day-to-day life.
- **Gather & Share** : Gather with your small group and discuss what the Spirit has revealed to you during this weekly study.
- **NOTE**: If you need help finding a group - Please reach out to Melonie at: meloniep@gumchurch.com

- Why do we sometimes have a better familiarity with God the Father and Son (Jesus), than with God's Spirit?
- Are there areas that you are hesitant to pray for God's Spirit to reveal Himself to you, or to speak with authority in your life? Why is that?

Day 3: The Holy Spirit is WITH us

Read John 14:15-31

As Jesus says in our reading today, The Holy Spirit is our helper and "advocate" sent to dwell in us, guide us, teach us, and to convict us so that we can become more like Him. The Holy Spirit also intercedes for us on our behalf. He is our strength when we are weak. He promises to never leave us, and desires to have a real and active personal relationship with us. We aren't simply people trying to live FOR God who is distantly up in heaven. Instead, we are a people in whom God has chosen to dwell. God wants us to personally experience His presence in our lives. He actively moves His Spirit to work in and through us each and every day.

- What difference does it make to learn that the Holy Spirit desires a real and active personal relationship with you?
- How might your daily life change if you were more aware of the fact that you are carrying the presence of God's Spirit with you everywhere you go?
- What are some things in your daily life that distract you from noticing the Spirit's presence throughout your day?

Day 4: The Holy Spirit has authority

Read Romans 8:1-30

In our reading today, Paul talks about two different ways to live our lives. We can either follow our flesh, or live in peace according to the Spirit of God. As a follower of Christ, the Holy Spirit has authority over our lives and our decisions. Instead of asking God to bless OUR plans, we should ask the Spirit to lead us to GOD's plans. Read over these 5 areas in our passage from today. As you reflect on each one, ask yourself - Where do I struggle with surrendering to the Spirit the most? Why? Is there a small step you could take to begin surrendering more to Him?

- **Minds** - (vs. 5-6) Allow the Spirit to redirect our thoughts.
- **Desires** - (vs. 12-13) Allow the Spirit to put our sinful desires to death.

"For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God"

- ROMANS 8:14

Spirit in Action

Join us each week as we look for ways to practice experiencing the gifts of the Spirit in Action.

Discernment

Discernment isn't becoming suspicious of the world, it's becoming sensitive to the Spirit.

1. Discern the small things

Ask yourself these questions throughout your day and WAIT to hear the Spirit respond.

- Why am I feeling compelled to say or to do this?
- Why am I reacting this way in this situation?
- Is this something I need, or something I want to do?

2. Obey what you discern

Discernment is more than knowing what God wants you to do - it's responding to what His Spirit reveals.

Follow this simple framework this week:

- **S - STOP** - Don't immediately react. Instead, pause, pray and wait to hear from the Spirit first.
- **T - TEST** - Does what you're hearing from the Spirit align with scripture, and with God's character? Do you need to ask a trusted Spiritual mentor for help or advice?

- **Decisions** - (vs 14) Allow the Spirit to lead and guide our decisions.
- **Identity** - (vs. 15-16) Allow the Spirit to define our identity as children of God.
- **Future** - (vs. 11) Allow the Spirit to give us hope through the life that He gives to us.

Day 5: The Holy Spirit empowers YOU!

Read Acts 1 - 2

When we read in the book of Acts it can be easy for us to think “Well, that was a long time ago, the Holy Spirit doesn’t do things like that anymore”. The truth is that the Spirit of God never changes. The SAME Spirit that created the world, that empowered King David in 1 Samuel 16, that fell like a dove on Jesus in Luke 3, that raised Jesus from the dead, that roared into Jerusalem like fire on the heads of the disciples in Acts, that healed the sick and fed the thousands, is the SAME Spirit that dwells within you today. 1 Corinthians 6:19 says that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit. He’s not far away or distant, His presence and power are with you always each and every day! God’s Spirit can and will work through you if you will allow Him to. The Holy Spirit doesn’t just transform who you are, He also empowers you to participate in what God is doing in your life. His Spirit, gives us gifts of discernment, wisdom, healing, love, courage, generosity, and even prophecy. Miracles still happen today, and the gifts of the Spirit are given just as often as they were during the days of the early church in Acts.

- What are some gifts and abilities that are gifts from the Spirit in your life? Have you ever experienced a moment where the Spirit worked in a miraculous way?
- Where might God be calling you to step out in faith, through the power of His Spirit rather than relying on your own abilities and talents?
- Is there someone or something that God is trying to reach or do through you with the power of His Spirit?

Closing Prayer Time:

Is there somewhere that you have tried to silence the Spirit’s nudging or calling in your life this week? Spend some time in prayer today and ask God to help you surrender to His Spirit and His calling on your life whatever that may be.

“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own”

- 1 CORINTHIANS 6:19

- O - Observe - What is this going to produce in my life? What might the Spirit be trying to reveal to me?
- P - Proceed - Once you have confirmation from the Spirit, proceed with obedience, surrender, humility, and love.

3. Discernment as a gift

Read 1 Corinthians 12:10 - This passage describes a Spiritual Gift of discernment that God gives to specific individuals to benefit the whole body of Christ. If you know or feel that the Spirit has gifted you in this very specific way, then pray today that He would reveal how to use that gift of discernment in the context of the body here at GUMC, or in your church small group.

4. Growing Discernment

While God gifts some with a specific gift that is meant for “whole body” discernment (like in #3 above), He calls ALL of us to grow discernment in our daily lives.

Read the following scripture as you focus on growing this area -

- Romans 12:2
- Philippians 1:9-10
- Hebrews 5:14