

REVIVAL

ORDER from CHAOS

Day 1: The Spirit is present in chaos

Read : Genesis 1 & Psalm 139

Genesis 1 describes the earth as formless, deep, dark, empty, and lifeless. This might not seem like a place where we would experience God's presence, BUT God was there. The scriptures say that His Spirit was "hovering" over this formless chaos. The word "hovering" in Genesis literally translates to mean a mother bird "hovering" over her nest. This protective and loving word describing the movement of the the Spirit is this beautiful revelation that God's Spirit isn't just present when things are beautiful, ordered, or made new. He is present in our messiest, darkest, and most chaotic moments. He is hovering over us with loving protection, even in our brokenness, confusion, uncertainty, mistakes, unanswered questions, doubts, and fears. These verses in Genesis remind us that His Spirit is present before we see can the light, before we see order start to form, and even before His purpose or plans are revealed. God's Spirit is hovering and poised ready to speak life, order, and form into those empty, unfinished, chaotic areas of your life too. He is already there!

- Where does your life feel empty, formless, dark, or chaotic right now?
- How does is feel to know that His Spirit is already there in that space? How does it feel to know that He is hovering over our messiness with love and protection?

Day 2: The Spirit forms the formless

Read : Jeremiah 18:1-10 & Romans 9:14-23

If you have ever worked with pottery, or thrown on a wheel, then you can visualize the imagery in these verses well. In this scripture, God is the potter and we are the clay. Similar to the way that God's Spirit "hovered" over the chaos in Genesis 1, the potter hovers over an unformed, empty, messy lump of clay. God's Spirit has the power to bring order, purpose, form, and function to something completely formless. God doesn't just take away the chaos, instead He transforms it. Often, we resist God's transformational touch much like the clay in Jeremiah. What may seem harsh, like the potter smashing the clay to start over, can sometimes be God's mercy & grace. There

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 anything 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

are times when a potter has to start over in order to make you whole. Many times we beg God for a bandaid or a quick fix, while God is saying “you won’t need a bandaid when I’m done, just let me transform you”. As the clay, we have to trust Him as we remain faithfully in the hands of the potter. Even in the moments where we don’t understand the pressure, change, reshaping, and sometimes even the starting over. We have to trust that His Spirit is lovingly & protectively hovering over us, even in our messiest moments. Ultimately, we have to trust that He can take our chaos and transform us into what He created us to be.

- Where are you resisting the Spirit’s formational work in your life? Have you been looking for a bandaid or a quick fix when God wants to fully transform you?

Day 3: The Spirit = Life

Read : Romans 8

As we read in Romans today, and in Genesis earlier this week, it’s good to remember that the SAME Spirit who created the world and held the resurrection power, is the SAME Spirit that dwells within you and me! God’s Spirit is powerful! He can bring fullness & life into any empty, chaotic, or dead spaces that you allow. The Spirit invites us to receive a FULL life with Him. Take a moment today to pray through these areas. Where do you feel the most tired, empty or lifeless? Where do you need to stop striving, and just receive from Him?

- **Peace through control** - Read: Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 46:10 - Reflect: *What am I trying to control because I don’t fully trust God with it?*
- **Identity through achievement** - Read: Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 2:10 - Reflect: *If I could accomplish nothing today, would I still believe that I have value?*
- **Security through planning** - Read: Proverbs 16:9, James 4:13-15— Reflect: *Am I trusting God with my future, or am I trying to feel safe by being in control?*
- **Belonging through people pleasing** - Read Galatians 1:10 - Reflect: *Am I trying to earn belonging from people that God has already given me through Christ?*
- **Purpose through productivity** - Read John 15:4-5, Psalm 127:1-2 - Reflect: *Am I measuring my purpose by how much I accomplish, or by how I am abiding with Jesus?*

“For God is not a God of disorder but of peace”

- 1 CORINTHIANS 14:33

Day 4: The Spirit creates order from the inside out

Read : Galatians 5 & John 15: 1-17

Creating order from chaos begins inside our own hearts and minds. When we abide with the Spirit, He aligns our thoughts, plans, and desires with His. In the case of the potter, he doesn’t just shout from a distance for the clay to become a bowl. The potter

Spirit in Action

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

Encouragement

Read : 1 Thessalonians 5:11

When we are filled with Spirit, we can bring His encouraging light into the darkness, chaos, and emptiness around us.

1. SEE

Read: Philippians 2:4 - Ask the Spirit to reveal those in your life that need His light & encouragement.

- Look for those that God might be putting in your path for a reason - the grumpy waiter, the mom at the grocery who looks overwhelmed, or the neighbor you haven’t seen outside in a while.
- Ask God to help you see others that might be struggling through His eyes.

2. SPEAK

Encouragement isn’t just saying something nice or being kind. Encouragement from the Spirit is speaking God’s words of truth and life over someone. Ask the Spirit to reveal what this person specifically needs to hear.

- Be obedient, even if it’s uncomfortable or outside of your comfort zone.

“We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.”

- ISAIAH 64:8

physically spends time with the clay, carefully working and shaping it into what it was meant to be. Sometimes the chaos in our lives exists because we are trying to control something that God is asking us to surrender into His hands. As you reflect on these areas in your life, ask the Spirit what you need to surrender to Him.

• **Thoughts** - Read Romans 12:2, Philippians 4:8 - Ask yourself: *Are my thoughts based in truth? Do they reflect God's Spirit?*

• **Emotions** - Read 1 Peter 5:7, Philippians 4:6-7 - Ask yourself:

Am I trying to control my emotions, or am I asking the Spirit to meet me in them?

- **Relationships** - Read Romans 12:18, Ephesians 4:23, Galatians 6:5— Ask yourself: *Am I taking responsibility for (or trying to control) someone I'm in relationship with?*
- **Schedule** - Read Ephesians 5:15-17, Psalm 90:12— Ask yourself: *Does my calendar reflect what God says should matter most?*
- **Desires** - Read Galatians 5:24-25, Matthew 26:39 — Ask yourself: *If God said “no” to the thing I want most right now, would I still trust His goodness in my life?*

Day 5: The Spirit makes ALL things new

Read : 2 Corinthians 5 & Romans 12:1-2

The potter knows exactly what a lump of clay can become in his hands. Just like God's Spirit knows exactly who we can become in His hands. We might see emptiness, loneliness, grief, mistakes, or just something unfinished. Thankfully, God sees the created person that He is still forming you to be. God's Spirit isn't intimidated, scared, or repulsed by our chaos. Instead, just like the potter over the clay, He lovingly hovers over it. In fact, He is ALREADY in it with us. He isn't afraid to get His hands messy while working, shaping, molding, and pressing us to where we need to be.

- Ask the Spirit this week, where do you need to surrender yourself into His hands? Where do you need to allow Him to take you from...Empty to Full - Dark to Light - Chaos to Order - Death to Life - Unfinished to “VERY GOOD” (as He says in Gen 1)?

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

- ISAIAH 43:19

- Example: Noticing a grocery store clerk that looks overwhelmed and saying - “I see how hard you are working today, God sees you too.”
- Example: A friend shares a struggle they are going through - instead of trying to fix it simply say - “You don't have to carry this alone. Can I pray with you right now?”
- Example: Your teen does something unusually kind and you say - “I am seeing God growing _____ in you. God isn't finished with you yet, don't ever give up.”

3. ACT

Read Galatians 6:2 -

Sometimes God isn't just calling for words, He's calling for action too. Ask the Spirit to reveal what He's calling you to do specifically in this situation. Don't assume that you know, or attempt this in your own strength. Spiritual Gifts come from the Spirit.

- Examples could be: praying with someone, bringing a meal, sitting with them at the doctor's office, giving them a ride, mowing a yard, offering a hug or a shoulder to cry on, letting someone in line in front of you, generously tipping your Uber or Door Dash person