The background is a rich, warm brown color. It features several abstract elements: a large, light pink organic shape in the top right corner with a thin white line drawing of a plant branch extending from it; a dark brown shape in the top left with thin white concentric wavy lines; a vertical strip on the left with thin white horizontal lines; a light pink shape in the bottom left with thick white concentric wavy lines; and a light pink shape in the bottom right with thin white wavy lines. On the right side, there are faint white line drawings of human faces in profile and three-quarter view.

ALIVE IN US

STUDY GUIDE

ALIVE
IN US

WELCOME TO THE ALIVE IN US STUDY GUIDE

This study tool will be your guide for the next 12 weeks as we discover the majesty and ministry of the Holy Spirit. For many of us, the Holy Spirit may be a confusing and intimidating topic but be assured he wants us to know him and experience his presence in our daily lives. Join us as we explore the power and promise of God's indwelling Spirit - *Alive in Us*.

STUDY GUIDE USE

This study guide will help you engage with God in a variety of environments. We encourage you to use it in your personal time of devotion, at home with those you share life with every day, and in a small group with other followers of Jesus. To make the most of your experience, be sure to have an open Bible on hand each time you make use of the study guide.

PERSONAL

All relationships need one-on-one time for greater health. Studying Scripture individually with only the Holy Spirit as your teacher will help you learn to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Psalm 1:2 says this about the blessed man: *"His delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night."* (ESV)

HOME

If there are multiple people in your home, the opportunity to practice your faith together and share the things you're learning from God's Word helps you develop a deep and authentic faith. Deuteronomy 6:7 says, *"... you shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."* (ESV)

GROUP

Gathering together with other followers of Jesus to share life together and apply God's Word to real life situations transforms us in to the image of Jesus. Acts 2:42 reminds us, *"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."* (ESV)

STUDY GUIDE FORMAT

Each week's content follows the same format. Each section is meant to help you experience a meaningful encounter with God.

CONSIDER

Begin with a brief introduction to the topic. Consider this a primer as you open your mind and heart to hear, believe and obey God's Word.

DISCOVER

Dive into God's Word and record your answers to the study questions to help you reflect on and believe the things God is teaching you. If you are studying with others, share your initial impressions about the passage before answering the questions.

PRAY

Seeking and listening to God in prayer are vital to our relationship with him. Take time to talk to and hear from God through prayer before you begin your study, and as you conclude your study. If you are studying with others, spend time in prayer with a partner or share with each other what God has revealed through prayer.

ACT

The best thing you can do to grow in your relationship with the Holy Spirit each week is to put into practice the discoveries you've made during your study. Make time each week to apply God's Word and obey his commands. If you are studying with others, include them when appropriate.

READ

Filling our hearts and minds with the Word of God enables us to discern what is right and true. Read the additional Scripture passages at the end of each week as you follow Jesus moment by moment.

POWER • PROMISE • PRAYER

THE HOLY WHO

Power: Power happens when the Holy Spirit comes.

Promise: A relationship with the Holy Spirit results in a vigorous life.

Prayer: Empower me.

COME ALONGSIDE ME

Power: Power to face an unsure future.

Promise: The Holy Spirit is a helper and mentor. He takes on the role of a coach, perpetually at our side.

Prayer: Comfort me.

CALM DURING TIMES OF CHAOS

Power: Power over chaos.

Promise: The Holy Spirit comes into our lives as a calming presence, bringing peace and soothing troubled hearts.

Prayer: Calm me.

A SURE SALVATION

Power: Power of a sure salvation.

Promise: The Holy Spirit is active in the act of salvation. While we are saved by Jesus, we are secured by the Spirit. He “seals” us. He positions us in the family of God as a child of God.

Prayer: Seal me.

ME? HOLY?

Power: Power of a consecrated heart.

Promise: The Holy Spirit affirms our identity as chosen people of God, consecrated for a holy work.

Prayer: Consecrate me.

HIS WIND BENEATH MY WINGS

Power: Power of God's wind at our back.

Promise: The Holy Spirit serves as wind to our backs and oxygen in our lungs. Consequently, we can rest from our work.

Prayer: Carry me.

YOUR UNIQUE YOU

Power: Power of a clear assignment.

Promise: The Holy Spirit determines our spiritual gifts and provides them, as needed, to the glory of God.

Prayer: Gifts to me, gifts from me.

HOW TO HEAR FROM GOD

Power: Power to perceive God's direction.

Promise: The Holy Spirit guides us through life, helping us make the right choices.

Prayer: Guide me.

UNFORCED INFLUENCE

Power: Power to cleanse a culture.

Promise: The Holy Spirit creates a life of unforced influence for good.

Prayer: Flow out of me.

THE GROANS OF THE HEART

Power: Power to talk with God.

Promise: What we pray in weakness is heard in the heavens because of the intercession of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Pray for me.

JUST SPEAK

Power: Power to articulate the good news.

Promise: The Holy Spirit empowers Christ-followers to speak the heart language of the world.

Prayer: Speak through me.

ALIVE IN US

Power: Power to live a fruitful life.

Promise: The Holy Spirit frees us from the destructive power of sin and enables us to live fruitful lives.

Prayer: Fill me.

WEEK 1

THE HOLY WHO

POWER

Power happens when the Holy Spirit comes.

PROMISE

A relationship with the Holy Spirit results in a vigorous life.

PRAYER

Empower me.

JOHN 16:7 AMP

But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you [to be in close fellowship with you].

CONSIDER

Have you ever wondered if it might be easier to be a Christian if Jesus were still here on earth? A reasonable thought, but Jesus himself may beg to differ. In fact, he told his disciples it was to their advantage that he was going away. Jesus was certain that the presence of the Holy Spirit would be the difference maker in the lives of his followers. The same Holy Spirit has been made available to us as followers of Jesus.



PRAY

Pray silently as we begin the first lesson of *Alive in Us*. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal himself to you in a new way through this study. Listen, and write down his response.

Holy Spirit, you are a great mystery and I want to understand you better. Use this study to deepen my understanding of you. Teach me who you are, how you work, how I can experience your power, and how I can show you to others. Amen.

Response:

DISCOVER

Read: [Acts 1:1-11](#)

What priority do you give the Holy Spirit in your life? Does that priority align with the instructions Jesus gave his disciples? (verses 4-5)

What did the disciples hope Jesus was coming to do? What did Jesus point them to instead of a restored earthly kingdom?

Is the power that they will receive connected to the coming of his kingdom? If so, how?

What does it mean to be a witness for Jesus? What role does power play in our ability to function as a witness? In what ways can you be a witness?



Take the Holy Spirit Power Assessment to determine what areas in your life need the power of the Holy Spirit. Remember that you are stronger, and the world is better because the Holy Spirit is living in you.

HOLY SPIRIT POWER ASSESSMENT

Fill in the circle on the continuum between “Need This” and “Got This” to denote your current level of need for Holy Spirit power in each area.

Calm during times of chaos

need this

got this

I’m never alone and never without help

need this

got this

Complete confidence that I am going to heaven

need this

got this

A rock-solid self-esteem

need this

got this

A sense of my unique skillset

need this

got this

Strength to obey all of God’s commands

need this

got this

Discernment of God’s guidance

need this

got this

Influence for good without being phony

need this

got this

A deeper prayer life

need this

got this

The ability to speak words of truth that help people

need this

got this



PRAY

Reflect on the results of your assessment and determine what areas in your life need to see the power of the Holy Spirit at work. Ask God to empower you by showing you his resources of divine power made available through the Holy Spirit. Rest in the hope and faith that supernatural strength is within reach.

READ

 YOUVERSION Days 1-7

John 16:7-16

Luke 3:21-22

Luke 4:18-19

Acts 1:1-11

Luke 11:9-13

Judges 3:1-11

Exodus 31:1-5

Exodus 35:30-35

2 Chronicles 24:11-20

WEEK 2

COME ALONGSIDE ME

POWER

Power to face an
unsure future.

PROMISE

The Holy Spirit is a helper and
mentor. He takes on the role of
a coach, perpetually at our side.

PRAYER

Comfort me.

JOHN 14:16-17 ESV

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

CONSIDER

Does it ever feel like you're trying to figure out this whole "Christianity" thing on your own? Are you fumbling, and bumbling, doing your best to act like the other Christians you see? Jesus promised he wouldn't leave us on our own to figure out how to follow him. He sent us a helper, a teacher, a friend, a counselor. According to Jesus, the Holy Spirit will be all this for us and more.



PRAY

The Holy Spirit is available to help us, but many times we're too busy helping ourselves to effectively listen to the Spirit. Pray a prayer of repentance as we begin this study. Repent of leaning on your own abilities and wisdom.

Holy Spirit, you have been sent to me as a helper. I recognize that I need your help, but I often live as though I don't need you. I repent of trying to do life on my own, in my own strength, and in my own power. I need you, and I open myself to receive your helping ministry. Amen.

DISCOVER

Read: [John 14:15-26](#)

Can obedience be separated from love? How does the Holy Spirit help us love and keep the commands of Jesus?

Where does the Holy Spirit dwell? What does this mean for your ability to access the Holy Spirit's guidance and help? (verse 17)

What type of lessons does the Holy Spirit want to teach us? How have you experienced being taught by the Holy Spirit? What would you like the Holy Spirit to teach you/remind you of?

DISCOVER

Read: [John 16:7-15](#)

What are three functions of the Holy Spirit? Why do you think these three areas are so important? (verses 13-15)

What does it mean that the Holy Spirit leads us into all truth? Can someone find truth apart from the Holy Spirit? Is there a limit to what the Holy Spirit can teach you?

Why do you think the Holy Spirit always glorifies Jesus? How do we share in the work of glorifying Jesus now that the Holy Spirit lives inside of us?

ACT

It can be difficult receiving guidance from the Holy Spirit if you have trouble believing you can hear him. Use the following exercise to practice hearing from the Holy Spirit.

Still and Quiet Your Soul (Psalm 46:10)

Lay aside the thoughts and cares vying for your attention.

Invoke His Presence (Psalm 100:4)

Praise and acknowledge God as the one who is ever-present. Ask that he would especially reveal himself to you during your time of listening.

Ask God to Speak to You (1 Samuel 3:10)

Use the model of Samuel, “Speak Lord for I, your servant, am listening.”

Listen Expectantly (Habakkuk 2:1)

Use a pen and paper to write down the impressions he brings your way. Usually this will be words, phrases, visual images or thoughts that come into your mind through the still small voice of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

PRAY

Pray a prayer of gratitude. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to help you and reveal truth to you. Thank God for the indwelling presence of the Spirit, for the gift of a helper, and for not leaving you alone!

READ

 YOUVERSION Days 8-14

John 14:15-21

John 14:23-27

Nehemiah 9:20-31

John 15:26-27

John 16:12-15

Acts 2:31-37

John 16:4-11

Joel 2:28-29

Acts 2:15-21

Isaiah 11:1-9

WEEK 3

CALM DURING TIMES OF CHAOS

POWER

Power over chaos.

PROMISE

The Holy Spirit comes into our lives as a calming presence, bringing peace and soothing troubled hearts.

PRAYER

Calm me.

JOHN 14:27 E&V

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

CONSIDER

We live in an imperfect world full of stress inducing triggers urging us toward fear and anxiety. All too often, we allow our external circumstances to dictate our sense of peace or level of anxiety. The Holy Spirit is the key to having calm in times of chaos. Jesus promised through the Holy Spirit a peace that is different from the peace of the world, a peace that transcends our circumstances.



PRAY

Ask the Holy Spirit to exchange your stress, anxiety, and fear for his calming presence. Rest silently in his presence.

Holy Spirit, your presence is the peace Jesus promised. Give me your presence so that I may experience your divine peace. I let go of my stress. I release my anxiety and my fear. I receive your perfect calming peace. Amen.

DISCOVER

Read: [Luke 3:21-22](#)

Why do you think the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove? What does this represent?

Have you ever felt the peace and calming presence of the Holy Spirit upon you? What precipitated this experience?

What is the significance of Jesus starting his ministry with the calming presence of the Holy Spirit?

Read: [Mark 4:35-41](#)

How do the disciples respond to the storm? What is your response when external chaos is creating an internal storm?

What can we learn from Jesus' response to the storm? In what ways has the Holy Spirit calmed your internal storms?

ACT

Create a “Calm in the Storm” action plan.

1. Handpick a few Bible verses that promise the peace of the Holy Spirit.
2. Select a favorite encouraging song. Consider a song from the [Alive in Us \(OHC\) Spotify playlist](#).
3. Find an easily accessible quiet place ([Matthew 6:6](#)).

The next time you find yourself overcome by one of life’s storms, set aside 15 minutes, go to your selected location, meditate on your Bible verses, listen (maybe sing along) to the song you selected, and pray for the Holy Spirit to grant you the peace Jesus promised.

PRAY

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal your greatest source of anxiety. Listen in silence until he reveals it to you. Express your desire to be free from this prison of fear and ask the Holy Spirit to remove your worry. Ask him to override your feelings and enable you to experience inexplicable peace regardless of your circumstances.

READ

 YOUVERSION Days 15-21

[Genesis 1:1-2](#)

[Psalm 104:24-30](#)

[John 14:25-27](#)

[Acts 13:49-52](#)

[Mathew 3:13-17](#)

[Mark 1:9-11](#)

[Luke 3:15-22](#)

[Romans 15:7-13](#)

[Ephesians 5:18-21](#)

[Acts 16:16-34](#)

[Mark 4:35-41](#)

[2 Timothy 1:7](#)

[Romans 14:15-19](#)

[Psalm 34:1-10](#)



WEEK 4

A SURE SALVATION

POWER

Power of a sure salvation.

PROMISE

The Holy Spirit is active in the act of salvation. While we are saved by Jesus, we are secured by the Spirit. He “seals” us. He positions us in the family of God as a child of God.

PRAYER

Seal me.

EPHESIANS 1:13–14 ESV

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

CONSIDER

There’s nothing more unnerving than being unsure of an important outcome. Satan knows this, that’s why he’ll do his best to make an earnest, well-meaning believer question the outcome of Jesus’ redemptive work in them. Fortunately for us, the Holy Spirit has taken it upon himself to be our guarantee! He seals us, telling the devil, “Hands off!” and setting our minds at ease until the very day we are together with God in glory.

PRAY

Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal your identity as an adopted child of God. Ask him to give you full confidence in your permanent position in the family of God. Ask him to reveal the significance of being sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, thank you for joining with my spirit and making me a child of God. Help me trust more and more in the completed work of Jesus in my life. Give me conviction of my inheritance, and my place in our Father's family. Amen.

DISCOVER

Read: [Romans 8:14-17](#)

What is the difference between the way a slave interacts with their master and the way a child interacts with their parents?

What inclines us to interact with God as slaves? What dangers lie in this approach to our relationship with God? What is the truth? Why are we free to interact with God as his children?

What does it mean to be heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ?

DISCOVER

Read: [Ephesians 1:11-14](#)

What are some examples of sealing? How does this help you understand what the Holy Spirit has done for you?

What actions precede the sealing work of the Holy Spirit?

What results from the Holy Spirit's work to seal all those who believe the gospel?

ACT

Who do you know that should hear this truth of a secure salvation? Perhaps it's someone who hasn't yet entered a relationship with God? Or maybe it's a Christ follower who fears death and questions their eternal security? Begin by praying for this person, then invite them out to coffee or lunch and share with them these truths from Scripture. Share personal stories of how the salvation of God has transformed your own life. Encourage them to live free from fear and believe the truth – the Holy Spirit secures all of God's children for a promised eternity with God.

PRAY

Pray each day for people in your life who have not yet encountered the sure salvation of Jesus Christ. Pray for them to know the peace and love that comes with salvation. Be open to take any action steps you hear the Holy Spirit nudging you to take.

READ

 YOUVERSION Days 22-28

Ephesians 4:30-32

Romans 8:14-19

Hebrews 10:19-23

2 Corinthians 5:1-8

2 Corinthians 1:20-23

Philippians 1:4-6

Romans 5:1-5

John 3:3-8

Galatians 4:28-31

1 John 5:11-12

WEEK 5

ME? HOLY?

POWER

Power of a consecrated heart.

PROMISE

The Holy Spirit affirms our identity as chosen people of God, consecrated for a holy work.

PRAYER

Consecrate me.

LUKE 4:18-19 ESV

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

CONSIDER

"I can't talk to them about God, I'm just a regular person." "Who am I to serve God, I've made too many mistakes." Have thoughts like these ever crossed your mind? These thoughts are true apart from God's work in our lives. But through God's Spirit, we are purified and affirmed in our identity as a child of God. He has made us holy, and as holy children of our Heavenly Father we can minister to others with humble confidence.



PRAY

Ask the Spirit to show you what it means to be made holy by the Spirit of God. Ask him to reveal your identity as one consecrated and anointed.

Holy Spirit, thank you for cleansing me and making me holy. Thank you for showing me that I have been set apart for a special work and made holy apart from what I've done or what has been done to me. Help me live in a way that reflects this holiness. Renew my mind and give me conviction of your holiness in me. Amen.

DISCOVER

Read: [Luke 4:14-30](#)

Why do you think Jesus chose the passage from Isaiah to be his inaugural address before starting his ministry?

What gave Jesus such conviction about his identity and purpose on earth? Where do you turn to be reminded of your identity and purpose?

At one point the crowd is in awe of Jesus and at another point they're ready to throw him from a cliff. Was Jesus concerned with their opinions of him? What's different about the life of a person who is secure in their identity as a child of God?

DISCOVER

Read: [Romans 12:1-2](#)

According to this passage, what actions precipitate our minds being renewed?

What is the result of having a renewed mind?

How does having a renewed mind impact our understanding of our value in Christ?

ACT

The Word of God, also known as “The Sword of the Spirit,” is the most powerful tool at our disposal. It has the power to renew our minds, discern our motives, provided us wisdom, soften our hearts, strengthen our resolve, and encourage our fellow disciples. Select a verse that reminds you of your identity and memorize it this week. Consider Colossians 3:12, *“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”* (NIV) Review the verse multiple times each day. Ask a friend to take the memory challenge with you and encourage one another throughout the week.

PRAY

Ask the Lord to remind you who he's called you to be. Ask him to reveal how this identity should reveal itself in the way you live and interact with those around you. Thank him for choosing you and giving you the power to live a life that is holy and dedicated to him.

READ



YOUVERSION Days 29-35

Luke 4:14-20

1 Samuel 16:1-13

1 Samuel 17:5-15

Exodus 30:22-33

Exodus 29:7-9

2 Corinthians 3:4-6

Acts 6:1-7

Luke 1:13-17

Mathew 11:11-13

Ephesians 2:14-22

Romans 8:9-11

WEEK 6

HIS WIND BENEATH MY WINGS

POWER

Power of God's
wind at our back.

PROMISE

The Holy Spirit serves as wind
to our backs and oxygen in our
lungs. Consequently, we can
rest from our work.

PRAYER

Carry me.

ROMANS 8:1-2 ESV

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

CONSIDER

Have you ever driven through West Texas and seen the wind turbines spread across the plains? These mammoths harness the wind to generate electricity and power nearby homes and businesses. The wind helps sustain life in these communities. The Holy Spirit does the same for each of us. The Spirit blows into our lives, renewing our hearts and bringing life to our souls. Let's spend some time exploring how the Holy Spirit empowers us to live.

PRAY

Sit in silence before God. Focus on your breathing and consider the life-giving power of each breath. Thank the Holy Spirit for the gift of life and for the power to live a renewed life.

Holy Spirit, you are the breath of God. You've brought order to chaos, life to dust, freedom to slaves, truth to the deceived, and peace to the fearful. I don't understand the vastness of our power, but I worship you as the personal and powerful presence of God with me today. Amen.

DISCOVER

Read: [John 20:19-23](#)

Twice in this passage Jesus repeats the phrase, "Peace be with you." Of all the words Jesus could have spoken to the disciples, why do you believe Jesus chose this phrase?

What did Jesus remind the disciples of before he breathed on them?

Why would Jesus breathe on them? How does the Holy Spirit renew the lives of the disciples at this moment? How does this encourage you?

What connection do you see between breathing in the Holy Spirit, receiving and giving forgiveness, and having peace?

Why did the disciples need the Holy Spirit for their future kingdom work?

ACT

Dig a little deeper into the majesty and ministry of the Holy Spirit. Watch this short video from *The Bible Project* for an overview of how the Holy Spirit is described throughout the Bible. <http://bit.ly/HolySpiritVideo>

PRAY

Reflect on how God has been the wind in your life this week. Thank God for the Holy Spirit, the wind that propels your thoughts, will, and emotions. Ask him to restore the things in your life that have been dry and desolate. Allow him to breathe new life and new revelation into those places as he prepares you for his divine purposes.

READ



YOUVERSION Days 36-42

Genesis 1:1-2

Genesis 8:1

Psalms 104:24-35

Zechariah 4:1-6

Romans 5:1-5

Psalms 143:1-12

John 3:1-8

John 20:19-31

Romans 8:1-17

Ephesians 3:14-21

WEEK 7

YOUR UNIQUE YOU

POWER

Power of a clear assignment.

PROMISE

The Holy Spirit determines our spiritual gifts and provides them, as needed, to the glory of God.

PRAYER

Gifts to me, gifts from me.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-6 NLT

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

CONSIDER

Have you ever lacked the tools or know-how needed to complete a project? Many people experience the same struggle when it comes to serving in God's kingdom. Churches are filled with people who feel unworthy, wounded or inadequate to serve in God's kingdom. The truth is, none of us are gifted enough on our own to serve in God's kingdom. Thankfully, God is in the business of using imperfect people to do profound things in his kingdom. Consider these examples: Moses the stutterer, David the murderer, Peter the liar, and Paul the persecutor. Each of these imperfect people were empowered by the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's perfect will.

PRAY

Reflect on the majesty of the Holy Spirit. Express your desire to know and experience the power of the Holy Spirit more in your life. Ask him to show you how he wants to use the gifts he's given to you as a blessing to others.

Holy Spirit, you are a great mystery and I want to understand you better. Use this study to deepen my understanding of you and the gifts you have imparted to me. Teach me how I can use the gifts you've given me to serve others. Amen.

DISCOVER

Read: [Romans 12:3-8](#), [1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31](#), [Ephesians 4:11-13](#)

What are the purposes of spiritual gifts? Are they primarily for the person who is gifted?

Compare these passages. What are the similarities and differences?

Do any of the mentioned gifts sound like you? Has God revealed any of these gifts to you for use in the church?

In what ways do you think God desires to use the gifts he's given you to bless others?

ACT

God has designed each of us in a special way. To gain a better understanding of how God has uniquely wired you and how you can use your gifts to serve others, follow this link to take a spiritual gifts assessment.

<https://spiritualgifts.online/oakhillschurch>

PRAY

Thank God for the spiritual gifts he's given to you. Remember, *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."* (James 1:17 NIV). Open your hands and heart to the Lord, ask him to give you the gifts needed to grow his people, kingdom, and church.

READ

 YOUVERSION Days 43-49

Luke 11:9-13

1 Corinthians 12:27-31

Luke 19:11-27

Acts 2:37-41

Ephesians 4:1-16

Hebrews 2:1-4

Romans 12:1-14

Exodus 31:1-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Exodus 35:4-35

WEEK 8

HOW TO HEAR FROM GOD

POWER

Power to perceive
God's direction.

PROMISE

The Holy Spirit guides us
through life, helping us make
the right choices.

PRAYER

Guide me.

JOHN 14:16-17 NLT

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.

CONSIDER

We live in a world of instant, and nearly omniscient, navigation. We have *Google Maps*, *Apple Maps*, and *Waze* to get us wherever we need to go – and fast! We almost can't help but to expect God to work the same way. Just tell him what you want, punch in your destination, and then listen to the Holy Spirit as he guides you on the path of least resistance toward your desired destination. The obvious problem is that we are not wise enough to know what we need or where we should go. It would be like giving your GPS to your 2-year-old and following the directions to whatever destination they happened to choose.



PRAY

Remember the times you knew God was guiding you. Thank him for the guidance he's provided. Surrender your will to his and ask him to guide you today.

Holy Spirit, thank you for guiding me. In hindsight, I can see the many times you've watched over me, protected me from bad decisions, and led me to make good decisions. I lay my desires and plans at your feet and ask you to give me the direction I need to walk in the good ways you have for me. Amen.

DISCOVER

Read: [Isaiah 63:11-14](#)

Why is it important to remember God's faithfulness to us?

What does this passage tell us about the role of the Holy Spirit during Israel's desert wandering?

Read: [Acts 15:22-29](#)

The early church leaders needed guidance about how to assimilate new Gentile believers. How did the early church approach this issue? (verses 22-23)

Do you seek out counsel from others when it comes to making decisions in your life?

What role did the Holy Spirit play in the decision about which requirements to give the Gentiles?

How do we know when the Holy Spirit is guiding us? What are some ways we can be sure he is leading us rather than simply acting in our own wisdom?

ACT

Think about any big decisions that you have ahead and write them down. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal his plans regarding these decisions. Do any scripture verses come to mind as you prayerfully seek the Holy Spirit's direction?

Do you have a godly friend or family member you can consult about these decisions? Ask them to pray with you and for you. Invite them to give input. Ask the Holy Spirit to grant you the wisdom and courage needed to make the best decision possible ([James 1:5](#)).

PRAY

Express your gratitude to God for the faithful love he has shown to his people throughout history. Ask him to continue guiding you in all the decisions of your life – the big and the small. Finish by reciting the Lord's Prayer ([Matthew 6:9-13](#)).

READ

 YOUVERSION Days 50-56

[Exodus 13:17-22](#)

[Matthew 4:1-11](#)

[Mark 1:12-13](#)

[Luke 4:1-13](#)

[Isaiah 63:9-14](#)

[Proverbs 3:5-6](#)

[Psalm 119:105](#)

[Ezekiel 37:1-14](#)

[Matthew 1:18-25](#)

[Luke 1:34-35](#)

[Luke 4:1-2](#)

[Acts 10:9-48](#)

[John 14:25-31](#)

[Acts 8:26-40](#)

[Acts 2:14-21](#)

WEEK 9

UNFORCED INFLUENCE

POWER

Power to cleanse a culture.

PROMISE

The Holy Spirit creates a life of unforced influence for good.

PRAYER

Flow out of me.

JOHN 7:37-39 NIV

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

CONSIDER

One of the most amazing events in creation is the Great Migration on the Serengeti. Millions of animals migrate thousands of miles to find life. As drought hits different areas of East Africa, the animals are forced to move in search of water. If you watched the event from space, you would see East Africa go from brown to green almost overnight. What causes this explosion of life? Living water. When the rains come, life flourishes. The Holy Spirit functions the same way in our lives. In the dry seasons of our lives, the Holy Spirit washes over us with living water to help us grow and mature into who God has called us to be.

PRAY

Ask God to open your heart and pour the Spirit into every area of your life. Give him access to everything. No secret compartments. Now, free from your diminished desires and misguided ambitions, ask the Spirit to use you to shape the world around you - to benefit the lives of others in supernatural ways.

Spirit, wash over me and cleanse me from everything that stands in opposition to God's will for me. Pour your life-giving presence into my life and renew the dead places in my heart. Bless others through me. Use me to advance your kingdom as I serve my family, neighbors, co-workers, and even strangers. Amen.

DISCOVER

Read: [Genesis 41:14-41](#)

Where was Joseph when Pharaoh called for him? (verse 14) How did Joseph reply to Pharaoh's request to interpret the dream? (verse 16)

Why did Pharaoh select Joseph to rule over Egypt? What set Joseph apart? (verse 38)

Have you ever seen or experienced an increased influence because of the Spirit's work in you?



DISCOVER

Read: [Ezekiel 40:1-4, 47:1-12](#)

In Ezekiel's vision, God showed him a river flowing from the temple. The river was majestic, bringing life everywhere it flowed. What serves as your source of life? What is the danger in allowing a job, relationship, or status to serve as your source of hope and truth?

God showed Ezekiel a river that became increasingly deeper. (verses 3-5) How has God shown you his desire for a deeper relationship? What are the obstacles keeping you from a deep relationship with God?

ACT

Visit a river or stream. Go for a walk along the bank and meditate on the imagery of the Holy Spirit as flowing water. Observe the power and life-giving vitality the water brings. Ask God where you need his living water to pour into your life and invite him to move powerfully through you.

PRAY

In Ezekiel's vision, God showed Ezekiel how the river produced life on the banks and sustained all life, from the water to the land. Pray this week for God to flood your thoughts with living water. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal how you can let him flow through you, reaching the banks of your life.

READ

 [YOUVERSION Days 57-63](#)

[Numbers 24:1-9](#)

[2 Samuel 23:1-7](#)

[Psalm 42:1-11](#)

[Ezekiel 36:22-38](#)

[Joel 2:28-32](#)

[Acts 2:14-41](#)

[Mark 13:9-13](#)

[Luke 21:10-19](#)

[2 Corinthians 6:3-10](#)

[Galatians 6:7-10](#)

[Ephesians 3:14-21](#)

[1 John 5:1-12](#)

WEEK 10

THE GROANS OF THE HEART

POWER

Power to talk with God.

PROMISE

What we pray in weakness is heard in the heavens because of the intercession of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER

Pray for me.

ROMANS 8:26–27 NLT

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. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.

CONSIDER

Imagine being in a courtroom. You've committed a serious offense deserving of punishment. You have felt remorse and made amends to those affected by your crime. But the fact remains, you broke the law and deserve punishment. As you sit in the courtroom and listen to the charges being brought against you, your defense attorney acknowledges your guilt. The judge asks the prosecutor for their desire for sentencing, but then you see another person standing advising the prosecutor. To your amazement the person is advocating for mercy. It's as if they want to see you set free. The judge drops the gavel and you are pardoned for your crimes. An advocate has stepped into your life. The Holy Spirit does the same thing for you. He steps into every situation and intercedes on behalf of your life—especially in those moments of prayer where you lack the words to pray. As you dive into this study, start with the thought that the Holy Spirit is present in every prayer you pray.



PRAY

Sit in silence and quiet your mind for a moment. Ask God to silence all the thoughts that are not his. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide the words of your prayer. Ask him to prepare your heart for the reading of his Word.

Holy Spirit, speak for me. I need your help to know my true needs. You see what I cannot. My hope is in you. Have mercy. Pray and lead me to walk in your power today. Renew my mind by the truth in your Word. Amen.

DISCOVER

Read: [Acts 4:1-22](#)

Why were Peter and John arrested? What gave them the courage to speak so boldly?

After their testimony, what did the rulers think of Peter and John?

What ruling did the Council make? What was Peter's response to their ruling?

Read: [Acts 4:23-31](#)

How did the believers respond to Peter and John's report?

How did the believers respond to the threats of the Council? How did the Holy Spirit intercede for them?

ACT

In the left column, under the title “Need God’s Help,” list the life situations where you need God’s help. In the right column, under the title “God is Helping,” list how the Holy Spirit is interceding in your life. Review both columns, reflecting on the truth that the Holy Spirit is your advocate.

NEED GOD'S HELP

GOD IS HELPING

PRAY

Use this prayer time to advocate for others. Don’t ask for requests for yourself. Allow the Spirit to lead you in your intercession and pray for others. After you pray for each person, ask the Spirit if there is anyone else he would have you pray for. As you intercede on their behalf, remember this is what the Holy Spirit does for you.

READ



YOUVERSION Days 64-70

2 Chronicles 24:20-22
Ezekiel 3:4-27
Acts 20:17-38

Romans 8:18-30
1 Corinthians 2:6-16
Ephesians 6:10-20

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10
Jude 1:17-23

WEEK 11

JUST SPEAK

POWER

Power to articulate
the good news.

PROMISE

The Holy Spirit empowers
Christ-followers to speak the
heart languages of the world.

PRAYER

Speak through me.

ROMANS 10:14-15 NLT

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"

CONSIDER

The good news of Jesus is the best, most compelling message we could possibly share with someone. Yet, it can be intimidating to share our faith with others. The topic of faith has become socially taboo. We fear being labeled intolerant or narrow-minded, so we often hesitate to speak up. But what is the consequence of a generation of silent Christians?

PRAY

Thank God for the person who shared the good news of Jesus with you. Ask him for the wisdom, courage, and love to share the good news with those who are still separated from God.

God, thank you for _____. Without their faithfulness to share the good news with me I would still be lost and without hope. Help me to be bold and courageous with my faith. Ready to share the gospel with the people you lead me to. Amen.

DISCOVER

Read: [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#)

Why would God give Ezekiel a vision of a valley of dry human bones? What do these bones represent?

Has God ever asked you to do something ridiculous or impossible?

What is God's motivation in asking Ezekiel if these bones can live? What is God trying to teach Ezekiel (and us) through this vision?

How many times do you see the Holy Spirit show up in this passage? (Remember our discussion from week 6, the Holy Spirit is often described in the Old Testament in terms of breath and life).

DISCOVER

What is God's purpose in reviving these bones and in restoring those in exile?
(verse 6) How can you see God drawing people to himself through the miraculous
ways he's worked in your life?

Do you feel a responsibility to share God's good news with people who don't
know Jesus yet? Why or why not?

How can we be more open to the Spirit in our lives, especially when sharing
our faith?



ACT

Write out a brief version of your story. Explain what your life was like before you came to know Jesus, how you learned the good news of God's love for you in Jesus, and what your experience has been since you trusted in Jesus. As you share about your life, tell your story in a way that points to Jesus as the hero of the story.

PRAY

Thank God for your story. Ask God to give you opportunities to share the good news. Ask the Holy Spirit to prepare you for opportunities to share your story and for the words to speak when you need them.

READ

 YOUVERSION Days 71-77

2 Chronicles 15:1-15

Acts 4:1-13

Acts 7:48-60

2 Chronicles 20:14-30

Matthew 3:1-12

Acts 28:23-31

Acts 2:1-13

Matthew 10:1-20

Romans 15:14-21

WEEK 12

ALIVE IN US

POWER

Power to live a fruitful life.

PROMISE

The Holy Spirit frees us from the destructive power of sin and enables us to live fruitful lives.

PRAYER

Fill me.

EPHESIANS 5:15-18 HC&B

Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless actions, but be filled by the Spirit.

CONSIDER

O Lord God,
I pray not so much for graces as for the Spirit himself,
Because I feel his absence, and act by my own spirit in everything.

Give me not weak desires but the power of his presence,
For this is the surest way to have all his graces.

Save me from great hindrances,
from being content with a little measure of the Spirit,
from thinking thou wilt not give me more.

When I feel my lack of him, light up life and faith,
for when I lose thee I am either in the dark and cannot see thee,
or Satan and my natural abilities content me with a little light,
so that I seek no further for the Spirit of life.

Teach me then what to do.
Teach me to find and know fullness of the Spirit only in Jesus.

(The Valley of Vision, *God the Spirit*, p. 52, 1975).

PRAY

Ask for the Holy Spirit to fill you. Be quiet before him. Listen for him to reveal areas of your life that are out of step with his desires for you. Confess your sin and relinquish your ambitions. Allow him to renew your heart and refresh your passion to serve God.

Holy Spirit, I need you. I want to live a fruitful life. I want to be free from the painful habits of sin. Show me where I'm believing lies and living inconsistent with the truth you've shown me. Take my self-centered thinking and lead me in the good and beautiful life you have for me instead. I give myself fully to you - to be ruled by you in my thoughts, words, decisions, and actions.

DISCOVER

Read: [Galatians 5:16-26](#)

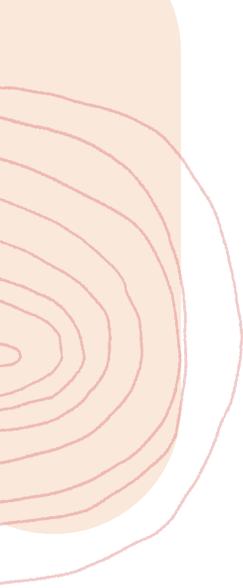
According to Galatians 5:16-17, what is going on inside every Christian? What results from this inner moral conflict? What is encouraging to you about this passage? What is challenging?

The word “desires” in this passage literally means “over-desires.” What does this tell us about how our sinful nature works? Look at the list of sins in verses 19-20, how are these sins the result of “over-desires”?

Why is it so hard to stop sinning? What is the result of simply deciding to stop doing bad things?

What counsel would you give to a new Christian who said, “I don’t see much of the fruit of the Spirit in my life”?

How have the past 12 weeks helped you grow in your understanding of the majesty and ministry of the Holy Spirit?



ACT

Take a spiritual retreat. Schedule a time to get away solely for the purpose of seeking God. It could be a couple of hours or a couple of days. Ask yourself the follow questions from the book, *10 questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health* (2001, Donald S. Whitney).

1. Do you thirst for God?
2. Are you governed increasingly by God's Word?
3. Are you more loving?
4. Are you more sensitive to God's presence?
5. Do you have a growing concern for the spiritual and temporal needs of others?
6. Do you delight in the bride of Christ?
7. Are the spiritual disciplines increasingly important to you?
8. Do you still grieve over sin?
9. Are you a quicker forgiver?
10. Do you yearn for heaven and to be with Jesus?

PRAY

Ask God to use the truths and experiences from the past 12 weeks to lead you to walk in step with the Holy Spirit. Invite the Holy Spirit to be fully alive in you. Ask for the opportunity to impact the lives of the people God has placed in your sphere of influence.

READ

 YOUVERSION Days 78-84

Acts 1:1-11

Acts 13:1-12

John 3:1-18

John 6:53-70

Titus 3:3-8

Ephesians 4:1-7

Galatians 5:13-26

