



Who is the Holy Spirit?

Leader's version

For an hour study, just do the starred * questions

Check in – ask everyone how they are and how they feel about studying the Bible today.

Before you start, mention to the group that this study hops around quite a lot of different books in the New Testament, so you will help them to find the passages as you go along. It will help if you all have the same version of the Bible, so that you can use page numbers.

1. SHOUT OUT What do you know about the Holy Spirit?

Write what they say on the flip-chart without commenting, (unless something is completely wrong).

What does the passage say and mean?

60 minutes

***2. Read Romans 8 v 9.** How is the Holy Spirit described?

As the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ.

***3. Read John 14 v 26 and John 16 v 7.** Who sends the Holy Spirit?

God the Father and God the Son.

***4. Read Galatians 4 v 6.** Who is the Holy Spirit sent to?

To those who believe and trust in Christ – 'sons of God' refers to adopted sons, i.e. believers in Jesus. (The Holy Spirit works in unbelievers to lead them to faith, see John 16 v 8, but he only lives in believers).

***5. Read 1 Corinthians 3 v 16.** How does the Bible describe a person who has the Holy Spirit living in them?

As a temple of God, a place where God is found and lives.

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As a believer in Jesus Christ who has the Holy Spirit living in you, you are God's temple. How does this change the way you see yourself and treat your body?

Encourage discussion on. drugs, alcohol, promiscuity, self-worth, smoking, self-harm etc.

Question 6 is a **SELF-DIRECTED QUESTION**. Let the group to work on in pairs.

*6. **SDL** Read the following passages to find out some of the roles of the Holy Spirit.

John 14 v 26	<i>To help us to understand what the Bible teaches us and remember it</i>
John 16 v 8	<i>The Holy Spirit works in our hearts before we believe to show us our sin / sinfulness, the righteousness that is available through the death of Christ and the defeat of Satan</i>
John 16 v 13	<i>Guides us into truth</i>
Acts 1 v 8	<i>Gives us the power we need to share the gospel effectively</i>
Romans 8 v 11	<i>Raises us to eternal life</i>
Romans 8 v 16	<i>Testifies that we are God's children</i>
Romans 8 v 26	<i>Helps us in our weakness. Prays for us.</i>
1 Corinthians 2 v 12	<i>Helps us to understand what God has freely given us (i.e. grace). We cannot understand God unless God the Spirit reveals truth to us.</i>
Galatians 5 v 22-23	<i>Helps us to change</i>
Ephesians 1 v 13-14	<i>A seal (refers to ownership) and a deposit which guarantees our inheritance (eternal life)</i>

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John 16 v 8 tells us that the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin. We are all sinners, although as believers in Jesus, we are forgiven sinners. Are you prepared to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal your sin to you, and then to repent of it?

If the whole group is happy to pray together to this effect, do it now. If not, suggest that those who are prepared to pray this prayer do it later today, when they have some space. Remind them that this is not a one-off prayer, it's something we should be praying daily.

7. The Holy Spirit shows us the active presence of God in the world and the church. How do your answers to questions 5 and 6 help you to understand what God is doing in the world and the church?

8. Read 2 Corinthians 2 v 14-16. Why can't non-believers understand spiritual truths about God?

Because they are spiritually discerned and only the Holy Spirit can reveal them to us. (The Spirit works in the lives of non-believers, bringing them to faith in Jesus, but does not live in them until they believe).

*9. **SHOUT-OUT** Look again at the list of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5 v 22-23. In what ways can you see these things starting to happen in your life, since you've trusted in Jesus?

Try to encourage everyone to say something – if they trust in Jesus, something must be changing, but they may not have the self-worth to admit it or see it. You may need to help individuals to think of things – good deeds they have done, fights / arguments they didn't get into, a feeling of inner peace etc.

Question 10 is a **SELF-DIRECTED QUESTION**. Let the group to work in pairs. Give each group one of the references. If your group is too small for this, run it as a SHOUT-OUT. Compile a complete list on the flip-chart.

Explain: the Holy Spirit gives gifts to all believers. We don't all have the same gifts, and gifts are not proof that we are saved. We know we are saved if we believe and trust that Jesus' death in our place is effective.

10* **SDL** Read 1 Corinthians 12 v 8-10 / 1 Corinthians 12 v 27-28 / Romans 12 v 6-8 and find the different gifts that the Holy Spirit gives.

1 Cor 12 v 8-10	<i>Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miraculous powers, Prophecy, Distinguishing between spirits (recognising false spirits and evil spirits), Speaking in tongues, Interpreting tongues.</i>
1 Cor 12 v 27-28	<i>Apostles (the people who met the risen Jesus, many of whom wrote the Bible), Prophets, Teachers, Miracle workers, gifts of Healing, Helping, Admin and Tongues.</i>
Romans 12 v 6-8	<i>Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Encouraging others, Giving, Leading, Showing mercy</i>

*11. What does 1 Corinthians 12 v 4-6 tell us about gifts from the Holy Spirit?

There are different gifts to equip us for different kinds of service, but one Spirit who gives them. The application of this is that we should use the gifts we have, and not be jealous of people who have different gifts – they have a different gift in order to fulfil a different role, we have ours in order to equip us do what God wants us to do.

12. What does Ephesians 4 v 11-13 tell us about spiritual gifts?

Another list of gifts – apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers. The aim of spiritual gifts is to build up the church and individuals into unity and maturity in our faith in Jesus.

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Do you recognise any spiritual gifts in yourself or in other people in the room? In what ways can you use these gifts to the benefit of this group?

*13. Read Acts 2 v 1-4. What happens here and what is the significance of it?

The Holy Spirit is given to the disciples (and whoever was with them – the text just says 'they were all together'). This was the first time the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples after Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension. The disciples were clearly already believers (Acts 1 v 14) – so the gift of tongues was not evidence of their salvation, but a gift to use in service. They were all given the gift of tongues in languages the people in the crowd spoke. This is important because it meant that people from 'every nation under heaven' heard God speaking to them.

14. Read Acts 4 v 31. Many of the people present in Acts 2 v 1-4 are present again in Acts 4 v 31. Peter and John have just been released from prison and are in danger. What happens here and what does it tell us?

The group of believers prayed and were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. We know they were already filled with the Spirit in Acts 2. Once the Spirit is in you, he won't leave. So this is another filling, equipping them for a specific event – in this case, to withstand persecution and share the gospel. This shows us that sometimes the Holy Spirit gives us a specific gift for the situation we're in.

Check out – with the group sitting in a semi circle go round and ask everyone, including leaders, how they found the study and if they are safe to go back to the cell.

Bibliography

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Who is the Holy Spirit?

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John 16 v 8	
John 16 v 13	
Acts 1 v 8	
Romans 8 v 11	
Romans 8 v 16	
Romans 8 v 26	
1 Corinthians 2 v 12	
Galatians 5 v 22-23	
Ephesians 1 v 13-14	

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9. Look again at the list of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5 v 22-23. In what ways can you see these things starting to happen in your life, since you've trusted in Jesus?

10 Read 1 Corinthians 12 v 8-10 / 1 Corinthians 12 v 27-28 / Romans 12 v 6-8 and find the different gifts that the Holy Spirit gives.

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