

Worship the Fuel of Discipleship

Worship and the Holy Spirit – Ephesians 5:18-20

Week of March 24, 2019 – Bay Park Life Groups (Leader's Guide)

Objective: To demystify misconceptions regarding Spirit filling while stirring a deep thirst for both the leading and filling of the Holy Spirit.

(Leader: There is a lot of scripture in this lesson. It's intentional. According to John 4, in order to be Spirit led, we need to be Word fed. For people to grasp what being Spirit filled is and isn't, they need to be exposed to the breadth of biblical teaching on the subject. This is a great opportunity to get people to participate by having them read a passage of scripture.)

Begin your evening by praying together. Ask specifically for the Holy Spirit's leading and guiding of thoughts and words throughout the evening.

1. Read the following quotes and discuss what one stands out the most.

"Someday, after we have mastered the winds, the waves, the tide and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love. Then, for the second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire."
-Teilhard De Chardin

"Perhaps a revolution is underway, a revolution of the Spirit that is about to shift our core energies *away from* arranging life to make it as satisfying as possible *to* drawing near to God. Jesus seekers across the world are being prepared to abandon the old way of the written code for the new way of the Spirit."
-Larry Crabb

"To be human is to have been designed for intimate relationship with the Divine. In spite of the messages of Western culture, personal fulfillment lies in connection, not autonomy. Spirituality is the discovery of the fundamental connection that exists between us and God - a connection that properly aligns us to others, the world and our deepest self."
-David G. Brenner

"if worshipers are not consciously dependent upon the Holy Spirit, their worship is not truly Christian."
-Bob Kauflin

"How does the Holy Spirit sing? He sings through His church! (Eph 5:18)"
-Warren Wiersbe

"The Holy Spirit's primary aim is to glorify Jesus by making us more like him."
-Bob Kauflin

2. Refresh your memory about what we learned in the last 5 weeks.

- a. Can you remember something about each week?
- b. Which Sunday sermon or LifeGroup study on worship has most encouraged or challenged you so far?

(Leaders: Yes this is important. Review is how we create strong patterns in our brain! This is how we will remember what has been learned not just tonight, but next week or next year when we really need it.)

3. According to John 16:7-15

- a. What is the role of the Holy Spirit?
- b. For each of the past Sunday's how does the role of the Holy Spirit connect to the topic?

Here is a refresher:

1. Worship begins and ends with Jesus because all of history, humanity is moving towards Jesus as he is moving towards us.
2. We were made to worship, but ever since the fall the human heart has become an idol producing factory. The question is not *if* we worship but *what* we worship.
3. Worship is not defined by a place or event but by the pursuit of a person, Jesus, and in response to God's unfathomable grace.
4. Worship is measured by transformation, not solely sensation. It's not about what makes us feel good, it's all about what makes us more like Jesus.
5. Worship cannot be divorced from the corporate because it is only in community that we reflect the glory of God, and grow to be more like Jesus.
6. Worship in the Spirit is to be God directed in every sphere of life.

4. Work through the passage from Sunday: Ephesians 5:15-21

- a. What is the interaction of the trinity in these verses?
- b. What are the similarities and differences between the filling of the Spirit and alcohol on the body?
- c. The same root word for being *filled* with God's Spirit in Ephesians 5:18 is used to describe people being *filled* with rage, sorrow, or even Satan himself in Luke 6:11; John 16:6; and Acts 5:3. Read through these verses and discuss the contribution they make to our understanding of what it means to be Spirit-filled.

So how do we tell the difference between actually experiencing and engaging with God's promised presence and simply being moved by a creative arrangement, a stunning vocal performance, a massive choir, or a beautiful melody? By examining what we are focusing on, and its fruit... encountering God generally bears the fruit of things like a greater hunger for his Word, a deeper love for the Saviour, and a greater passion for his holy life. ~ Bob Kauflin

5. As a Christian, it is possible to have the Spirit, yet not be filled by the Spirit. The evidence of the filling of the Spirit is best seen in the fruit of a changed life. Read through Colossians 3:16-17, Galatians 5:16-26, 2 Corinthians 3:17. How do these passages, along with Ephesians 5:18-20 help us to understand, what the filling of the Spirit is, how it happens, what it looks and like, and why we need it?

(Leader: Be sure to leave time to discuss the "why we need to be Spirit filled." If at the end of the day, all we did was clarify the what, we've missed the mark. Without the Spirit there is no transformation, no hope of being set free from sin's death grip on us. Also, regarding how we are filled by the Spirit, you might want to remind people of some of the points that were touched on Sunday. Whether in Galatians, Colossians or Ephesians, there's always a don't that comes before the indwelling of the Spirit. It can be summarized by Don't Grieve the Spirit (Eph 4:25-32). The Holy Spirit is not a mystical force that we turn on or off, but a person and part of the Godhead! If our lifestyle, attitudes and behaviours are characterized by rude, crude, selfish, covetous, anger, God is grieved, we will not be filled. To be Spirit filled there will always be the need to say no to things that the flesh craves, that have become idols, habits and most often

comfortable us, but that in the end are enslaving us. Likewise where there's a don't, God usually gives a do - Refocus. Instead of selfish, foolish pursuits, God invites us to refocus our lives daily. How do we refocus? Through God's Word, Prayer and community. The Spirit longs to fill us so that we might be a God blessing to those around us, in & out church. If you want to be filled, make people, including God's family, your priority. Just like getting drunk deadens us and is a relationship destroyer, being filled Spirit awakens us, and is relationship energizer.)

6. Spend some time praying together. Thank God not only for the trinity, but that part of the trinity is willing to not only fill but indwell us! Spend some quiet time as a group thinking through what He is convicting us of from our talk together tonight. Look for what areas He is wanting to transform and produce some beautiful fruit in. Pray not only for the Spirit's leading, but the strength to follow, even when it is difficult and painful. Feel free to pray some of the song lyrics from Sunday:

Holy Spirit, guide my vision, Help me see the way You see
Always Jesus, ever Jesus, Christ in all is Christ in me
Holy Spirit, guide my speaking, Words of grace in truth abound
Let my lips be filled with stories, Of the mercy that I've found
Holy Spirit, guide my hearing, Wake my ears to words You speak
In the thunder and the stillness, Let Your voice be clear in me
Holy Spirit, lead me onward, Walking through the great unknown
Trusting, leaning, holding, clinging, Till the day You lead me home

Optional Question: What role does music play in the filling of the Spirit?

(It's interesting to note in Ephesians 5:18-20 that corporate musical worship flows from the filling of the Spirit. We often gather together as a church expecting the opposite, for musical worship to fill us with the Spirit. The problem with such an expectation is that it reduces the filling of the Spirit to how a melody or song moves us emotionally, rather than how God's Spirit is at work in and through us. What did the psalms, hymns and songs that the Ephesian Christians engaged in sound like? Were they more Hillsong or Gaither like? A blend? What did David's Psalms sound like? Were they all accompanied by music? Bach or Bohemian Rhapsody? We don't know because that's not the point. God gives every generation creative expression of their faith through music. The style of music not only changes between cultures and generations but also through the seasons of our lives. This means there needs to be a place for lament, as well as thanksgiving, amazement as well as surrender. Note also that the music described in Eph 5 was for praising God and the building up of his body the church.

Remember: "How does the Holy Spirit sing? He sings through His church! Ephesians 5:18ff: "Be filled with the spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody..." - Warren Wiersbe)