

Journey CHURCH

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Remembering the Forgotten God Leader Guide Session 1: I've Got Jesus. Why Do I Need the Spirit?

Group Discussion:

1. Take a minute and list some of your beliefs about the Holy Spirit. (Even if you don't consider yourself a theologian, most of us have at least a few ideas about who the Holy Spirit is and what He does.)
2. Being as open as possible, do you think your beliefs are shaped more by the Scripture or by what you've come to experience as the normal Christian life? What makes you say that?

At some point, we all need to get past what we think we know about the Spirit. If we are going to rediscover the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, we will need to begin listening to his voice and following His leading – not in the ways we think He should speak and lead, but in whatever He may call us to do.

In the busyness of our lives, we have developed a remarkable ability to miss the obvious. We overanalyze the things that don't deserve a second thought, and we blow right past the clear, obvious, important things in life. We assume that we know that the Christian life ought to look like. But have you ever sat down and considered the way Scripture describes the Spirit-filled life?

3. The following passages offer a brief overview of what the Holy Spirit does in a person's life. Quickly flip through these passages and make some notes. (If you don't want to look up all of these passages, feel free to choose just a few at random.)

Acts 1:4-8

Acts 2:1-13

Acts 4:31

Romans 8:1-17

Romans 8:26-27

Romans 15:13

1 Corinthians 2:12-14

1 Corinthians 3:16

1 Corinthians 6: 9-11

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Galatians 4:4-7

Galatians 5:16-25

Ephesians 3:14-16

1 John 4:13

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4. If you disregarded your own experiences and just read these passages, what would you expect to observe as the Holy Spirit entered a person's life?
5. For so many people in the church today, everyday life does not match these biblical descriptions. Why do you think that is?
6. According to Galatians 5:16-25, what does it look like to walk by the Spirit?
7. Based on what Paul says here, what should distinguish a Spirit-filled person from a non-Christian?
8. Every day, people try to live the "Spirit-filled" life without the spirit. Based on your experience, what good things can we accomplish merely through human strength?
9. If the Spirit works through us, how should the supernatural results differ from what we can accomplish on our own?

Look again at the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. Add to that list a host of other godly characteristics that we are called to pursue (such as faith, hope, compassion). These are not just abstract concepts. These fruits should be evident in our actions toward the people around us.

10. Don't just think about what the Holy Spirit can do for you. What are some clear and practical ways that the Spirit can work through you to bless the people around you?

Chapter 1 of the book *Forgotten God* ends with a powerful analogy about the confusion a caterpillar must experience.

For all its caterpillar life, it crawls around a small patch of dirt and up and down a few plants. Then one day it takes a nap. A long nap. And then, what in the world must go through its head when it wakes up to discover it can fly? What happened to its dirty, plump little worm body? What does it think when it sees its tiny new body and gorgeous wings?

As believers, we ought to experience this same kind of astonishment when the Holy Spirit enters our bodies. We should be stunned in disbelief over becoming a "new creation" with the Spirit living in us. As the caterpillar finds its new ability to fly, we should be thrilled over our Spirit-empowered ability to live differently and faithfully.

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11. For all practical purposes, we seem to have forgotten that the Holy Spirit is powerful – He radically transforms lives. Are you open to being transformed, no matter what that may mean for your life? If you do want to be changed, why do you desire this? If you don't, what is keeping you from desiring change?

12. Spend some time praying that God will give you the humility to be open to what He wants to teach you – even if it means you've spent years overlooking the obvious. Then ask Him to begin using these truths to change the way you live.