

ASK

GENESIS
COMMUNITY CHURCH

“We ALL have questions. The questions we have help us to make sense of what we believe about God, ourselves, and the world in which we live. Questions are important, but even more important is where we go to get answers to the questions we ASK.

God is big enough to handle any and all of the questions we may ASK. He desires us to know Him and understand Him so that we might love Him as we walk with Him!” – Michael Davis

ASK

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USING THIS GUIDE:

Group Leader Instructions

In preparation for each study, take a few moments to read through the instructions below

Before The Group Meeting:

1. Spend some time in prayer before your group.
2. As you prepare for the study, read over the questions and think through how answering them for yourself could help you better walk with God.
3. Then, try developing two to three practical steps that would help members of your group also walk better with God. Avoid the temptation to simply recount information, but thoughtfully arm your group members with something tangible that they can do throughout the week.
4. In the closing moments of your preparation, ask the Lord to move mightily in your home or group setting. Without the Holy Spirit, we can do nothing, and we are utterly dependent upon Him showing up!

During The Group Meeting:

1. Begin with prayer. Ask for the Spirit to be present during the group.
2. Attempt to summarize this week's message, in a few, succinct, thoughts. (See summary below for an example)
3. Assign readers to read various Scripture texts.
4. Walk your group through the discussion questions. (Don't feel like you have to cover every question. Some questions will naturally be more relevant to your group than others, and will naturally produce more fruitful discussion. Be sensitive to the flow of conversation and either redirect or dwell longer upon a topic when it is necessary).
5. In response to questions, share stories and personal examples of how this has played out in your life. What did you learn? How did it help you walk with God? What fresh stories of God's power, love, mercy, or grace do you now have because you trusted Him?
6. Draw others out to share their own personal stories. What did they learn? What would life look like if they were able to live out this week's truth consistently?
7. End in a time of prayer, thanking God for the truths that He has revealed, and for the people that He has brought to your group.

WEEK 3

This Is The Holy Spirit

Today's Question(s):

- *Are the gifts of the Holy Spirit still available today, as they were at Pentecost?*
- *Where does GENESIS stand on being filled with the Holy Spirit as evidenced by speaking in tongues? I'm not sure if I am filled with the Holy Spirit because I cannot speak in tongues, but, my parents can and I've been in several other churches where most of the congregation is able to speak in tongues so I know this is real. Does anyone in our church speak in tongues?*
- *The Bible is full of miracles and fantastic events. Why have these stopped happening?*

Sermon Summary:

The heart for this series is not only that we would be able to ask lots of questions, but, that we would be able to see and experience God. Tons of people are asking tons of questions. But not everyone, who is asking those questions, is walking away from them, having an encounter with Him. For that reason, our hope is that you would not only ask tons of great questions, but that you would have a great encounter with God!

Today, the questions we are looking are very difficult. They are ones that have baffled many people, and have even divided churches against one another. For that reason, it is important to know what the Bible actually says about the Holy Spirit.

First, the Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity. He thinks, acts, feels, speaks, and relates to God and us. He is personal, fully divine, eternal, all knowing, all loving, and infinitely holy. He is not merely a part of God, but is fully God. Second, the Holy Spirit is a gift that God has given to EVERYONE who confesses Jesus Christ as LORD! He is not just the gift for a special class of Christians; He is the gift God has given to ALL Christians (as evidenced at Pentecost – question 1). Third, the Holy Spirit, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead and who lives inside of us, desires to do more in us and through us than we could ever imagine.

With that, the Bible speaks about the gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to believers. These are not talents a person already had, but unique gifts that the Spirit gives, so that ordinary people can do extraordinary things, in the mission of telling ALL people about Jesus. This means that the gifts exist, in order to help Christians share Jesus Christ. Not all Christians will have the same gifts, but every single Christian will be gifted. For that reason, some at GENESIS do speak in tongues, but that doesn't mean that everyone should. God gifts different people in different ways, and it is important for each person to know how God is gifting them (question #2).

Finally, do miracles still occur? Yes! God uses miracles all over the world, so that people, who do not know Jesus, will come to know Him. With that, one of the most incredible miracles that has ever occurred is when we surrendered our lives to Jesus Christ. Literally, we who were once dead were filled with new life in miraculous salvation! The only question that remains then is this: How will God use our lives and gifting's to lead others to Jesus Christ?

HOWEVER THE SPIRIT LEADS, WILL YOU FOLLOW?

Verses to Consider:

- John 14:16-17 – “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.”
- Romans 8:11 – “The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you.”
- John 15:5 – “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”
- Romans 12:6-8 – “In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.”
- 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 – “A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.
- John 16:7 – “But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.”
- Acts 1:8 – “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
- Acts 2:1-4 – “On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.
- Acts 2:5-8 – “At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from

Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages... And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!"

- 1 Corinthians 14:1-5 – "Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesy. For if you have the ability to speak in tongues, you will be talking only to God, since people won't be able to understand you. You will be speaking by the power of the Spirit, but it will all be mysterious. But one who prophesies strengthens others, encourages them, and comforts them. A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally, but one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire church."
- 1 Corinthians 14:18-19 – "I thank God that I speak in tongues more than any of you. But in a church meeting I would rather speak five understandable words to help others than ten thousand words in an unknown language."
- 1 Cor. 12:29-31 – "Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not! So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts."
- 1 Cor. 12:4, 7-8 – "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all... God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other."

Quotations to Consider:

- "The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for His people." A.W. Tozer
- 'Our lives will either be lived trusting in what we can do, or learning to trust in what the Spirit of God in us wants to do!' – Michael Davis
- "He is the Spirit of God, the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of witness, the Spirit of conviction, the Spirit of power, the Spirit of holiness, the Spirit of light, the Spirit of adoption, the Spirit of help, the Spirit of liberty, the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of revelation, the Spirit of promise, the Spirit of love, the Spirit of meekness, the Spirit of grace, and the Spirit of glory. It is for the church to explore the resources of the Spirit; the resources of the world are futile." Samuel Chadwick

Discussion Questions:

1. Michael said that bad teaching on the Holy Spirit has hurt many people. Have you ever experienced this?
2. What has helped shape your view of the Holy Spirit? Is it in line with what the Bible says about Him?
3. Given that the Holy Spirit lives inside of us, and wants to display His power through us, would you say that your life is currently being lived in your strength or in His? How do you know this? How would your life look different if you were living 100% in the Spirit's power?
4. Is your heart a suitable home for the Holy Spirit? Do you think your heart is a place that pleases Him, or grieves Him? What are the places inside your heart, right now, that the Holy Spirit wants to get rid of? What areas is He most interested in developing?
5. Michael said that we often treat the Spirit like He is a genie that helps us better accomplish what we already are trying to do. Does this resonate with you? If so, how do you think the Holy Spirit wants to empower you to live differently? What things does He want to accomplish through you?
6. According to Romans 12:6-8, all of us have been gifted in different ways so that we can serve His Church. What are the ways that the Holy Spirit has gifted you? How do you know that these are Spiritual gifts and not just natural talents that you already had? In what ways can you begin using those gifts today? Is there anything that is still holding you back?

(NOTE: you may offer to your members the following link to help them identify areas that the Holy Spirit may have gifted them <http://www.spiritualgiftstest.com/test/adult>)
7. How has God used His Spirit inside of you, to help you reach others who do not know Him? How has He transformed an ordinary situation into something extraordinary? Are there moments in your life where you knew that it was the Holy Spirit who was doing the work?
8. Michael challenged us with the following question: When the Spirit of God moves, will we follow? How do you think you would answer this question today? What do you think that following the Spirit of God looks like?
9. Michael said that the greatest miracle we have ever seen is when God transformed our dead heart into a living one, when we were saved. If that is the case, then are we living in such a way that others are getting to see our new heart?

Guide To Prayer:

- Take some time to thank God giving us His Holy Spirit. Announce the truth over your group members that this is the same Spirit who raised Jesus Christ from the dead that now lives in us. Thank God that the greatest miracle we will ever see, is the changed heart that God has given us because of Jesus Christ!
- Ask God to forgive us for the ways we have failed to live Spirit filled lives, and for the ways we have grieved His Spirit.
- Ask God to give us a greater appreciation for His Spirit, and a desire to grow in the areas that He has gifted us. Also, ask God to guide us in knowing where and how to use the gifts that He has given.