

A/ Teaching

Bible Material – Key Points - based on Luke 3v21-22, 4v1-2, 4v14-21

[Illustration: Battery]

Jesus as Example

- Born of the Holy Spirit – child of God. (Matthew 1v20, Luke 1v35, John 3v3-8)
- Baptized with the Holy Spirit – empowered for ministry (Luke 3v21-22, Acts 1v5)
- Filled with the Holy Spirit - ongoing (Luke 4v1, 10v21, Ephesians 5v18)

⇒ Be like Jesus!

Jesus Teaching

- Be born of the Holy Spirit (John 3v3-8)
- The Holy Spirit would be with us to replace him (John 14v16-17)
- Ask for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11v9-13)
- He breathed the Holy Spirit on his disciples (John 20v21-22)
- Wait for the Holy Spirit (Luke 24v49, Acts 1v4-8)

⇒ Obey Jesus!

The Holy Spirit Enables

- He assures us we are a child of God (Romans 8v13-17; Ephesians 1v13-14)
- He brings fruit in our character (Galatians 5v22-23)
- He guides us (where go - Luke 4v1; into truth - John 14v25-26, 16v12-15; what say - Luke 12v12)
- He empowers us
 - To witness (Acts 1v8)
 - To edify the church (1 Corinthians 12-14)
- He brings fruit in witnessing (John 16v7-11)

⇒ Allow Him! (Galatians 5v12-26)

Maintaining a Spirit-filled life – *Practical “How to”*

- Do not quench, but exercise (1 Thessalonians 5v19, 1 Timothy 1v6-7)
- Do not allow the sinful nature to reign (Galatians 5v16-25)
- Repentance removes blocks to his flow (Luke 3v3-6 ; John 7v37-39, Acts 2v38)
- Keep asking (Ephesians 1v17, 3v14-21)
- Keep going deeper (Ezekiel 47v1-12)

B/ Personal Reflection & Development - Materials available

Some of the following may help you reflect on these things further:

- Key Bible Passages with regards to the Holy Spirit
 - John 13-16
 - Romans 8v1-27
 - 1 Corinthians 12-14
 - Galatians 5v16-26
 - Trace the work of the Holy Spirit through Acts. [You can do this yourself on-line by going to “Biblegateway.com”, typing “Spirit” in the search box, select a Bible version, and click “search”. Down the right hand side will appear “filter” and a list of Bible books – select Acts (there are 67 references). You will then find a complete list of the verses in Acts which refer to the Spirit. Click the “in context” button under each one and you will see more, or read that section in your own Bible. Other apps are also available, but this is free to all and requires no download.]
- The following sheet may help you to think about your spiritual gifts and fruit : *“Spirit working in me”* sheet.
- The following books may be of help in your journey:
 - “The Spirit-filled church” Terry Virgo
 - “I believe in the Holy Spirit” Michael Green
- Meditate on some songs:
 - Holy Spirit, you are welcome here (There’s nothing worth more)
 - I surrender (Hillsong)
 - Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me
 - Set a fire down in my soul (Jesus culture)
 - Spirit break out (Father all of heaven roars your name)
- Key Bible verses to memorise and meditate on:
 - Ephesians 5v18, Galatians 5v16,22-23
- Thought provoking questions for further study:
 - Which type of enabling of the Holy Spirit is most important (Assure, Guide, Character, Witness, Gifts)?
 - Churches have often divided over “the work of the Holy Spirit”. What does this say about the church? (By “church” I mean the body of people rather than the institution of any particular type).

Reflect on some of the “Small Team” and “Pair/Triplet” material before meeting.

C/ Small Team (1 hour 15mins + worship)

- Worship

- Summary of “Bible Material” (5 mins)
- Talk Questions (15 mins)
 - Receiving the Holy Spirit
 - What is the difference between being born, baptized and filled with the Spirit?
 - What do we need to do to receive the Holy Spirit? (see also Galatians 3v1-5)
 - How do we know what the Holy Spirit is like?
 - Empowered by the Holy Spirit
 - What is the goal of the Holy Spirit? (John 16v14, 1 Corinthians 12v7)
 - In what ways does the Holy Spirit enable us?
 - What might limit this empowerment?

- Summary of “Practical” (5 mins)
- Practical Questions (30 mins)
 - Do we need more of the Holy Spirit?
 - What keeps us from asking?
 - Where you can, encourage each other by sharing your experience of the Holy Spirit.
 - What is currently blocking his flow:
 - In our personal lives?
 - In the life of the church?
 - Spend some moments in quiet allowing the Spirit to show us the truth.
 - In which fruit (Galatians 5v22-23) do you think we excel in the church, which need more focus?
 - In which gifts (1 Corinthians 12v1-11,27-31, Romans 12v4-8) do you think we excel in the church, which need more focus?
 - What spiritual gifts do each of us bring to this group and to the wider church?
 - What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our evangelism? How does this affect how I go about it?

- Pray together (20 mins)
 - Pray for the Holy Spirit to come
 - Pray for your “*list-of-5*” – pray that the Holy Spirit would enable you in your witness and bring trust in the truth to them!

D/ Pair/Triplet (40 mins)

- The goal is not to be right but to help one another as brothers/sisters in Christ (Ecclesiastes 4v12).
- Share and Discuss together (15 mins)
 - Share encouragements you have had from bible reading / prayer / worship.
 - What is your experience of the Holy Spirit?
 - In what way do you think you need more of the Holy Spirit (fruit, gifts, witness, leading) ?
 - What is your greatest hurdle to living more in the flow of the Spirit?
- Read a passage from the Bible together (this could be one that one of you has read during the week or 1 Corinthians 12v1-11). (15 mins)
 - What does this passage say about the Holy Spirit?
 - What does this passage say about us as humans?
 - What does it say about the relationship between us and God?
 - In what way is God comforting me from this passage?
 - In what way is God challenging me from this passage?
- Pray together (10 mins)
 - Give thanks and pray for one another based on the Bible passage and your discussion.
 - Pray for the filling of the Holy Spirit, the empowerment with gifts and the transformation with the fruit of the Spirit.
 - Pray for God to enable you to trust him in the things you discussed earlier.
 - Pray for your “list-of-5”

Talk

Other notes

HS in Jesus

- **Born of Spirit**
- **Baptised by Spirit**
- **Filled with Spirit**
- **Led by Spirit (Matt 4v1)**
- **Taught by Spirit (Acts 1v2)**
- **Joy by Spirit (Luke 10v21)**
- **Spirit upon him (Luke 4v18)**
- **Cast out demons by Spirit (Matt 12v28)**
- **Will baptize with the Spirit (Luke 3v16)**
- **Empowered by Spirit (Luke 4v14)**
- **Breathed the Spirit (John 20v22)**

Summary last time:

FRUITFUL DISCIPLES – 1 LOVE FOR GOD

1.1 PROVIDER – DEPEND ON HIM

A/ Preach

Based on Luke 12v22-34 (seek first kingdom and he will provide).

Key points

To place a LOVE FOR GOD means that we live by the fact that our source of all good things is God and that he is the ultimate good thing.

Everything is made by God, belongs to God and is at his disposal (eg Ps 50v9-12).

God makes promises to his children which he does not break (2 Corinthians 1v20)

Jesus trusted his heavenly Father to provide (eg Luke 4v1-13)

As we trust him, his promises are fulfilled (eg Proverbs 3v5-6, Matthew 28v19-20, Philippians 4v19)

We can be content in all situations as our pursuit is God, not his blessings (eg Philippians 4v10-13)

How to

- Read, listen, meditate on his promises in the Bible (see below)
- Read, listen, meditate on the stories of people who have demonstrated God's faithfulness (see below).
- Read, listen, meditate on the stories in the Bible which show God's faithfulness.
- Think about how God's promises relate to situations in your life.

Materials available

- **God's promises**
 - Have a look at the Freedom In Christ cards which give Bible verses for "Who I am in Christ", "20 Cans of Success".
 - Read a New Testament letter and identify the statements it says about what God has done for you, is doing in you and what God will do for you. Write these down and put your trust in them.
 - Look at this website for a list of promises from the books of the Bible.
<https://bible.org/article/selected-promises-god-each-book-bible>
- A selection of people in the Bible who demonstrate Gods' faithfulness
 - Abraham (Genesis 12-25)
 - David (1 Samuel 16- 1Kings 2)
 - Daniel (Daniel 1-9)
 - Joseph (Genesis 37,39-50)
 - Elijah (1 Kings 17-2 Kings 2)
 - Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1-13)
 - Moses (Leviticus & Numbers)
 - Elisha (1 Kings 19, 2Kings 2-9)
 - Paul (Acts 9,13-28)
 - Joshua (Numbers 13, Joshua)
 - Hezekiah (2 Kings 18-20)
- Christians whose stories are worth reading for our encouragement in faith
 - Hudson Taylor (Started global mission 1832-1905)
 - William Tyndale (Bible Translator & Martyr 1494-1536)
 - David Brainard (Mission to native Americans 1717-1747)
 - Lord Shaftesbury (Politician/Social Reformer 1801-1885)
 - George Muller (Evangelist & orphanage 1805-1898)
 - William Wilberforce (Fought slave trade 1759-1833)
 - James Fraser (Pioneer China missionary 1886-1938)
 - George Whitefield (Revival Evangelist 1714-1770)
 - CT Studd (Cricketer & missionary 1860-1931)
 - Jonathan Edwards (Revival Evangelist 1703-1758)
 - Jim & Elizabeth Elliot (Mission to tribes 1927-2015)
 - John Wesley (Founded Methodism 1703-1791)
 - John Bunyan (Imprisoned preacher & author 1628-1688)
 - D L Moody (evangelist 1837-1899)
 - Amy Carmichael (Mission/orphanage in India 1867-1951)
 - Brother Andrew (Bible Smuggler 1928-)

- John Newton (Transformed slave trader 1725-1807)
- William Carey (Global mission & education 1761-1834)
- Corrie Ten Boom (Hid Jews in WW2 1892-1983)
- Adoniram Judson (Mission to Burma 1788-1850)
- Sheet of God's promises and life areas.
- Key Bible verses to memorise and meditate on:
 - Proverbs 3v5-6; Luke 12v29,31; Philippians 4v19
- Songs to meditate on:
 - Faithful One
 - Great is your faithfulness
 - God of angel armies

Group Mentoring (1 hour + worship)

- Worship
- Summary of talk (5 mins)
- Talk Questions (10 mins)
 - How does it make you feel when you think on the fact that all things belong to God?
 - Share with each other your favourite stories of people living by faith.
 - In what way is God's promise to provide conditional?
- Summary of practical (5 mins)
- Practical Questions (30 mins)
 - What are the things you tend to worry about?
 - Identify promises that God speaks into these matters?
 - How can you keep your mind focused on the promises God makes rather than the issue?
- Pray together (10 mins)
 - Let each say a prayer for someone else. Some may wish to write something to read.

One-on-One (40 mins)

- The goal is not to be right but to help one another as brothers/sisters in Christ. (15 mins)
 - Share encouragements you have had from bible reading / prayer / worship
 - Share what you find difficult in bible reading / prayer / worship
 - Share what God has been saying to you about trusting him to provide.
 - Share promises which are relevant to your situation.
- Read Genesis 22v1-18 together (or one one of you has read during the week). (15 mins)
 - If you wish to explore how this incident relates to the ethics of child sacrifice, have a look at the following webpage, <http://www.jeanejones.net/2011/10/abraham-isaac-child-sacrifice/>
 - What does this passage say about God?
 - What does this passage say about us as humans?
 - What does it say about the relationship between us and God?
 - What is God wanting to say to me specifically from this passage?
- Pray together (10 mins)
 - Pray something based on the Bible passage – it could be a prayer of thanks or a request.
 - Pray for God to enable each of you to trust him in the areas identified earlier.
 - Pray that God will help you grow in your relationship with him in this way.

FRUITFUL DISCIPLES – 1 LOVE FOR GOD

1.2 OWNER – STEWARD HIS GIFTS

A/ Preach

Based on Luke 19v11-27 (Parable of Talents / Minas)

Key points

To place a LOVE FOR GOD is to live by the fact that he created all things including myself and he has the right to give and take away (Job 1v21). I am not the owner of my own life, nor anything else, I am a steward. I have responsibility.

Jesus' human life was a gift from God so that he might serve others (Matthew 20v28). He set the example.

My human life is a gift from God (Psalm 139v13-16). My talents, possessions, relationships, character, experiences. He uses all these things for the good of those who love him (Romans 8v28) and he gives them to serve others.

My Spiritual life is a gift from God. Salvation, forgiveness, the Holy Spirit, child of God, the fruit, the gifts 2 Timothy 1v6-7

I have a responsibility to nurture what I have by nature. This means experiment, use, serve, glorify God.

As a Christian I am called to do anything and everything with this understanding (Philippians 3v20-21, Colossians 3v17)

How to

- Attitude – be thankful for what God has given you and recognise these are not for your glory but to serve others and glorify God. Keep in the front of your mind some of the verses above, and let them soak in your heart.
- Experiment – all children are expected to try things out and see what they are good at. They take knocks and they are not always good at what they want to be. Sometimes others need to help them see what they are good at and not good at. We are God's children. Take risks, give it a go, listen to advice.
- Develop – most things start small. The greatest mathematicians started by adding 1 and 1. By feeding the mind with truth, and practising regularly, the raw gift is developed into a useful skill. Be taught, be trained, be critiqued, be corrected, be encouraged, try again, and excel.
- Discipline – It will take persistence to develop what God has given you.
- Serve – How can you use your gift to help someone else today?

Materials available

- **What has God given me to Steward sheet.**
- See also SHAPE sheet from Session 1.2.
- Other Bible passages regarding God's Ownership and our Stewardship
 - Ephesians 2v1-10
 - 1 Corinthians 6v19-20
 - Genesis 1,2
 - 1 Corinthians 12v1-31
 - Romans 12v3-8
- Other resources
 - John Stott's "Issues Facing Christians today" is about our responsibility in the world.
 - Francis Shaeffer wrote several books about the Christian in culture and the work place.
 - Erik Rees "SHAPE" is a book about finding your role in life.
 - David Watson "Discipleship"

Group Mentoring (1 hour + worship)

- Worship
- Summary of talk (5 mins)
- Talk Questions (10 mins)
 - For whose benefit to we tend, by nature, to regard our gifts? What sort of form might this take?
 - What areas of my life do we find more difficult to consider as belonging to God?
 - What do I have a responsibility to do?
 - Think about how this truth applies in different contexts based on following verses:
 - 1 Corinthians 6v19-20 with regards to morality and personal life
 - 1 Peter 2v13-17 with regards to the part we play in society
 - Psalm 127v3 with regards to our children/family (see also Ephesians 6v1-4)
 - Colossians 3v17,22-4v1 with regards to our work
 - Acts 4v32-37 with regards to our possessions
 - 1 Corinthians 12v4-11 with regards to our spiritual gifts
 - Romans 12v3-8 with regards to natural gifts
- Summary of practical (5 mins)
- Practical Questions (30 mins)
 - Share verbally some of the gifts (in its most general sense) God has given to you.
 - How can we ensure that we are more like the one who earned 10 more than the one hid it?
 - What does this mean with regards to our possessions, work, relationships, church ... ?
 - Share one gift that you think God is calling you to use more responsibly.
 - How can we help each other develop our gifts.
- Pray together (10 mins)
 - Let each say a prayer for someone else. Some may wish to write something to read.

One-on-One (40 mins)

- The goal is not to be right but to help one another as brothers/sisters in Christ. (15 mins)
 - Share encouragements you have had from bible reading / prayer / worship
 - Share what you find difficult in bible reading / prayer / worship
 - Share what God has been saying about what you have that he owns and how you should use it.
- Read 1 Peter 2v9-12 together (or one one of you has read during the week). (15 mins)
 - What does this passage say about God?
 - What does this passage say about us as humans?
 - What does it say about the relationship between us and God?
 - What is God wanting to say to me specifically from this passage?
- Pray together (10 mins)
 - Pray something based on the Bible passage – it could be a prayer of thanks or a request.
 - Pray for God to enable each of you to obey him in the areas identified earlier.
 - Pray that God will help you grow in your relationship with him.

FRUITFUL DISCIPLES – 1 LOVE FOR GOD

1.3 ENABLER – BE FILLED WITH HIS SPIRIT

A/ Preach

Based on Luke 3v21-22, 4v1-2, 14-21

Key points

Jesus was filled with the Spirit of God at the start of his ministry – how much more do I need him!

Jesus' final command to the disciples was to wait until the Holy Spirit came on them so he would enable them.

The desire of the apostle Paul was for the believers to be more and more filled with the Holy Spirit to give them insight and power – eg Ephesians 1v17-19, 3v14-19

The distinction between being Born of the Spirit, Baptised with the Spirit and Filled with the Spirit.

The Spirit brings assurance we are a child of God – Romans 8v13-17; Ephesians 1v13-14

The Spirit brings fruit in our character – Galatians 5v22-23

The Spirit guides us – Luke 4v1, John 16v12-15

The Spirit brings gifting to edify the church and to witness to the world – Acts 1v8, 1 Corinthians 12v1-11

Keep seeking more – Ephesians 3v16, 5v18; Luke 11v5-13

Don't quench the Holy Spirit, but be led by Him – Galatians 5v16-25; 1 Thessalonians 5v19

How to

- Ask – daily for more of the Holy Spirit.
- Invest time – in His presence (worship, prayer, Bible)
- Receive – allow Him to touch you and fill you
- Honour Him – be obedient to His call, be led by Him.
- Step out in faith – nurture the fruit in yourself; follow his leading; exercise His gifts.

Materials available

- [Spiritual Gift analysis sheet](#)
- [Fruit of the Spirit analysis sheet.](#)
- Other Bible passages regarding God's Enabling by His Spirit
 - [See the Spirit through the life of Jesus ...](#)
 - [See the Holy Spirit in Acts ...](#)
 - [The following passages concern the Holy Spirit in the letters](#)
- Other resources
 - Terry Virgo "The Spirit-filled Church"
 - Michael Green "The Holy Spirit and You"
 -
 - [XXXXX](#)

Group Mentoring (1 hour + worship)

- Worship
- Summary of talk (5 mins)
- Talk Questions (10 mins)
 - Why is it helpful to distinguish between being born, baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit?
 - What is the relationship between the Spirit and the Word (Bible)? (NB 2 Peter 1v20-21)
 - We referred to gifts, fruit, assurance and guidance. Which do you think are more important? – why?
 - What is the ultimate goal or intention of the Holy Spirit which is the reason why he works in us?
- Summary of practical (5 mins)
- Practical Questions (30 mins)
 - Are there ways we can identify if we are short on the Holy Spirit?
 - What might prevent us from being filled with the Holy Spirit? How can we overcome these obstacles?
 - Have you been Born, Baptised and Filled with the Holy Spirit? Would you like to ask for these now?
- Pray together (10 mins)
 - Pray for the Holy Spirit to come on you individually and corporately and wait on Him.

One-on-One (40 mins)

- The goal is not to be right but to help one another as brothers/sisters in Christ. (15 mins)
 - Share encouragements you have had from bible reading / prayer / worship
 - Share what you find difficult in bible reading / prayer / worship
 - Share what God has been saying about what you have that he owns and how you should use it.
- Read Luke 11v5-13 together (or one of you has read during the week). (15 mins)
 - What does this passage say about God?
 - What does this passage say about us as humans?
 - What does it say about the relationship between us and God?
 - What is God wanting to say to me specifically from this passage?
- Pray together (10 mins)
 - Pray something based on the Bible passage – it could be a prayer of thanks or a request.
 - Pray for God to enable each of you to obey him in the areas identified earlier.
 - Pray that God will help you grow in your relationship with him.

0. A High Value of God

0.1. **Father – Develop Relationship** – a relationship initiated by him, but developed by both of us. It is founded on love which results in his care of us and our respect of him. It is our calling to enjoy him as he also enjoys us. Practically we develop this relationship by:

0.1.1. Story - Prodigal Son

0.1.2. How –

0.1.2.1. Reading / listening to the Bible (his word) – establish a reading programme – eg notes, gospels, year programme, helps, youtube, mp3s ...

0.1.2.2. Relating back through prayer and worship – allocate time to pray / worship – have a song list and prayer list

0.1.2.3. Soak / meditate – allow time just to think through what read/prayed and allow him to speak.

0.1.2.4. Don't allow other things to be idols and get in the way of this relationship.

0.1.3. Action – fill in matrix of how will do on each day of week and how build up.

0.1.4. Discussion in small group & follow up actions

0.2. **Lord – Exercise his Will** – He is Lord of all; to not submit is to be in rebellion. We are now part of his kingdom which is to submit to his reign.

0.2.1. Story – Commission Matthew 28v16-20

0.2.2. How

0.2.2.1. Reading/listen to Bible and Holy Spirit with a view to apply it

0.2.2.2. Obey in your calling (family, work, social ...) – listen to God's guidance, but also trust him to lead and work through circumstances. "Remain in the place you were when called" unless clear leading.

0.2.2.3. Obey in your character – exercising love and grace (attitude), integrity and purity (morality), sacrifice and kingdom-seeking (motivation).

0.2.3. Action – What places and roles has God called me to? What does it mean to show the above character in my family, work, social ...

0.2.4. Discussion in small group & follow up action.

0.3. Provider – Trust and Depend on Him Totally

0.4. Owner - Steward His Gifts

0.5. Enabler - Be filled with His Spirit