

THE
HOLY SPIRIT

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INTRODUCTION

Jesus taught his disciples to baptise people ‘in the name of the Father and of the Holy Spirit’ (Matthew 28.19). The focus of this teaching series is the Holy Spirit: who he is and what he does. Having said that, since the Holy Spirit is ‘the Spirit of his Son’ (Galatians 4.6) who ‘proceeds from the Father’ (John 15.26) as we learn about the Holy Spirit we’re learning about the triune God and his will for our lives.

SERMONS

The sermons in this series are based on titles or roles the Holy Spirit is given (in fact, gives himself!) in the Bible. This is not an exhaustive list, however these are selected to provide a helpful overview view of the Holy Spirit’s person and work.

The primary reading for each sermon (and the focus for each group session) is the New Testament one, however supporting Old Testament readings are suggested.

1. The Spirit of God	Genesis 1.1-2	1 John 4.1-6
The purpose of this sermon is to establish that whatever we understand about the Holy Spirit, we must understand him within the context of the triune God. <i>Suggested points: The Person... Power... Presence... Purpose... of God.</i>		

2. The Spirit of Truth	Isaiah 59.14-21	John 16.7-15
If the previous sermon was mostly about who the Holy Spirit <i>is</i> , this one is mostly about what he <i>does</i> , for every person who believes ‘Jesus is Lord’. <i>Suggested points: The Holy Spirit Teaches ...Bears Witness ...Convicts ...Guides</i>		

3. The Spirit of Prophecy	Joel 2.28-32	Acts 2.1-21
Many people associate the Holy Spirit with prophecy. This sermon is intended to help them associate prophecy with proclaiming the Great News about Jesus. <i>Suggested points: The Holy Spirit Arrives, and Empowers the Church to Prophecy, So that All Kinds of People Can Be Saved.</i>		

4. The Spirit of Life	Ezekiel 36.22-27	Romans 8.1-17
Our world is constantly trying to sell us one vision or another of life. Romans chapter 8 shows us a glorious vision of the life we can have with the Holy Spirit. <i>Suggested points: A Life of Freedom ...Purpose ...Hope ...Progress ...Access</i>		
5. The Spirit of Power	Isaiah 44.1-5	1 Corinthians 12.1-31
This sermon is meant to help people stop seeing 1 Corinthians 12.1-31 as a ‘spiritual gift register’ and put the unifying ideas in this passage centre-stage. <i>Suggested points: God’s Power In Us ...Through Us ...Among Us</i>		
6. The Spirit of Unity	Isaiah 63.10-14	Ephesians 4.1-16, 25-32
We’re right to care about unity because God cares about unity. And Ephesians chapter four show us what the highly-important ‘unity of the Spirit’ looks like. <i>Suggested points: The Priority of Unity, The Pathway to... the Practice of...</i>		
7. The Spirit of Holiness	Psalms 143.7-10	Galatians 5.16-25
If it’s not too cheeky to say, a big part of the Holy Spirit’s work is ‘what it says on the tin’: he makes us holy in Christ and he leads us to live increasingly holy lives. <i>Suggested points: The Holy Spirit Leads Us to Walk in Holiness ...Struggle for Holiness ...Grow in Holiness.</i>		

SESSIONS

This is a session-after-sermon series that prioritises prayer, because praying is one of the main things the Holy Spirit wants to help us do (Romans 8.15-16 cf. 26-27).

- These sessions assume (but don’t strictly *require*) that participants have heard the sermon on the relevant topic (either in-person or via recording).
- Given the size of these topics and the open-ended nature of the discussion, leaders shouldn’t feel pressure to answer every question that might arise.
- It may help groups to run through Appendix: Guidelines for Praying Together.

Here is an ‘Around the Room’ to start discussion for each session:

1. What’s one thing that comes to mind when you hear the words ‘Holy Spirit?’
2. What’s something (big or small) about which you’ve changed your mind?
3. Share a time that you’ve been excited to tell a lot of people some news.
4. What’s one ingredient you’d add to a recipe for ‘a life well lived’ and why?
5. Share a time you’ve felt like an effective (or ineffective) member of a team.
6. Share a time you’ve seen unity and one thing that created or sustained it.
7. Share one way you think God has changed you since you came to know Jesus.

RESOURCES

- *The Coming of the Holy Spirit.* Philip D Jensen.
- *The Holy Spirit.* Sinclair B Ferguson.
- *Keep in Step with the Spirit.* JI Packer.

Participants in this series might want to use this traditional Anglican prayer:

Almighty God, who taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant to us by the same spirit to have a right judgment in all things and always to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

SESSION TEMPLATE

Around the Room

[Use relevant discussion-starter question under ‘Sessions’.]

Opening Prayer and New Testament Reading

Is there anything anyone didn’t understand in the passage or sermon?

What are the main things that we think this passage is trying to tell us?

Does anyone want to share any other passages relevant to ‘The Spirit of ...’?

Is anyone feeling encouraged or challenged by anything in today’s reading?

Time of Prayer

Take time to brainstorm prayers about the passage / topic then pray them.

After the brainstorming, participants may request prayer for personal matters.

Around the Room

What’s one thing about the Holy Spirit you’re taking away from this session?

GUIDANCE FOR GROUP PRAYER

- Don't be shy. A stumbling but sincere prayer can be much more precious to God (and to the group) than a long, fancy-sounding prayer.
- Instead of praying one long prayer about multiple points, try praying one short prayer for each point (spread out across the prayer time of course)/
- Prayer is a time to 'have a pray' not 'have a say' (i.e. it isn't a soap-box). Always remember that the main person to whom you're talking is God.
- Say 'Amen!' clearly, either to show people that it's the end of your prayer, or to show that you agree with a prayer someone's just prayed (if you do).
- Feel free to have your Bible open and to read out a verse or two, a biblical prayer or a short psalm to introduce a prayer or even as a prayer.
- We should pray 'with thanksgiving' (e.g. Philippians 4.6, Colossians 4.2). Sometimes, try thanking or praising God without adding a request.