

Open to the Spirit

6

Spirit promptings

Welcome, opening prayer and worship

Pray as you begin, asking God to be at work in your group. You may like to have a short time of worship too (singing, listening to some music, meditating on a psalm together etc.).

Opening review

Take a few minutes to feedback anything that struck people from last session. Has anyone any stories to share of their experiences of the Holy Spirit since last time?

Introduction

Sometimes we struggle to yield to the Holy Spirit because we're too busy trying to figure out "God's will for our life." For whatever reason we tend to focus on what we can and should do in the future, rather than what we can and should do today. This can be such a huge preoccupation that we don't consider what God wants us to do right now, in the situations that he has placed us in at this moment...on our frontlines...and we may miss just what God wants to do and use us for....

Bible discussion time and video.

1) Watch 'Remembering the Forgotten God Session 6' (11 mins)

This can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atT-rRWtF68>

Spend a few moments sharing your thoughts on what Francis Chan said.

- What are your challenges you?
- What scares you?
- Have you any stories of how you felt the Holy Spirit prompting you to do something? If so, what happened?

2) Read Galatians 5:16-26

Paul talks here about

- a) being led by the spirit (v18)
- b) walking in step with the Spirit (v25)

What do you think each of these phrases means? What does it mean to put this into practice in your daily life.

The concept of walking is so basic that perhaps you've never considered what walking entails. Think about how simple it is: You don't have to know exactly where you're going; it doesn't require any planning; all you have to do is put one foot in front of the other. Really, the only way to walk is one step at a time.

3) Francis Chan warns that we can get so caught up in the big picture that we lose sight of the fact that God is simply calling us to walk, one step at a time. Do you relate to this? How might this stop you from fully 'living in the Spirit'?

There is real difference between *adding the Spirit to your life* and *actually following Him minute by minute*. If you add the Spirit to your life, you're not open to change; you just want to enhance what you are already doing. This is not what the Spirit came to do. On the other hand, if you begin following the Spirit's leading in your life, you will find yourself changing. The Spirit may prompt you to let go of things that were once important to you. He may even call you to give up some good things in your life, at least for a time, in order to accomplish His purposes in and through you.

4) What can we practically do to help us *daily follow the Spirit's leading* rather than simply 'adding the Spirit to our lives'? What does this look like? What can we do to become more sensitive to the Spirit's leading?

As we learn to 'be led by the Spirit' and 'walk in step with the Spirit' we will see the Spirit growing the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22) and changing us in us more and more.

Prayer ministry and closing prayer

Have a time of quiet and invite each person to be open to the Holy Spirit's promptings about one of their **frontlines**.

Ask the Holy Spirit, 'Is there something you want to prompt me about today?'

- He may, for example put a particular person or situation on your mind... ask the Holy Spirit again 'What do you want me to do in this situation?'
- Keep asking questions of the Holy Spirit and test anything you sense, asking,
 - 'is this consistent with scripture?'
 - Is this prompting in line of what we know of God and his character?
 - Is this bringing life and freedom to the situation?
 - Do I sense peace that this is from God?

Invite anyone to share anything that they sense God may be saying.

Select one or two people who seem to sense something specific from God and ask the whole group (or two smaller groups) now to pray more for them and the situation. Be open together to discerning more of what the Spirit might be saying, and get people to share anything else that they may sense the spirit saying (it may be a picture, or a scripture, or a word or phrase). Be bold and offer anything you feel God might be saying, in humility... 'I sense the Holy Spirit may be saying.....'

Finish by praying God's blessing on that person/those people and for the Spirit to continue to fill them, equip them and give them courage to step out in obedience to God's promptings.

Homework!

Try and keep praying what Francis Chan recommended throughout each day this week '**Holy Spirit are you prompting me to do anything at this moment?**' (you might even like to set an alarm on your phone several times in the day to remind you!) and commit to taking risks and stepping out in obedience to anything that you sense God is calling you to do... and just see what God might do through you!