

Discipleship Groups

Reaching · Growing · Sending

Week of February 14, 2016

In His Presence: The Holy Spirit

Text: The Book of Acts

Heartbeat

Today we finish our study of God's presence by considering his presence in us through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the presence of God dwelling in us. He gives us strength, revelation, supernatural gifts, and bears his fruit (character) in us. God is always present through his Spirit but our awareness of his presence is often what limits our sense of God being with us. Some days we will sense or feel his presence. Other days we will simply know he is close by faith. Our study today is designed to increase our faith in the presence of God in our lives every day and to help us draw more on that presence.

Get to Know Me [5-10 Minutes]

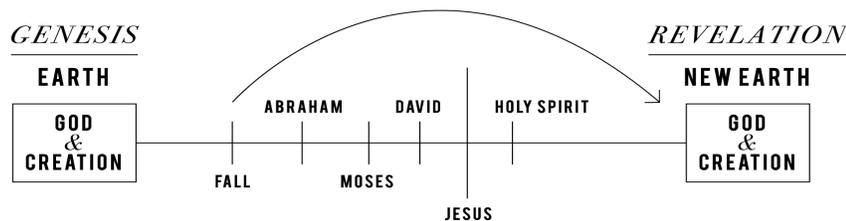
- What is something you forgot once that you will more than likely never forget again?

Warm-Up [15 Minutes]

- What thoughts from Pastor Daniel's sermon this week were most meaningful to you?
- In what ways has this series been helpful in your relationship with the Lord?
- As you look over this past week, how did you experience the presence of God? A fresh word from him, a significant revelation, a blessing, direction, protection, peace, provision, etc.?

Exploration [20-30 Minutes]

THE BIGGER STORY



Read Acts 2:1-13, 36-39

- How did the followers of Jesus experience the presence of God in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost?

- What promise was given to every believer that day that relates to the presence of God?

Read the Following Scriptures.

After reading each one, discuss how God's people experienced the presence of God in each case and how we may experience his presence today.

Tips:

You may want to sift through these passages before your study and choose those that the Spirit highlights for your group to discuss.

Another idea is to have these verses on small pieces of paper to distribute to individuals to look up and read aloud in the group. Getting others involved is a great way to liven the discussion.

Acts 4:29-31

Acts 19:11

Acts 7:54-57

Rom 8:26-27

Acts 9:1-9

1 Cor 2:9-15

Acts 10:9-16

1 Cor 12:1-11

Acts 10:44-46

Gal 5:22-23

Acts 18:9-10

Phil 4:6-7

[A range of responses could include water baptism, Spirit baptism, boldness, forgiveness, tongues, assurance, miracles, spiritual gifts, help in our weaknesses, fruits, peace of God etc.]

Application [20-30 Minutes]

Discuss the following questions as time allows or design your own questions.

- Of the passages above on the presence of God, which one or two challenge or encourage you the most in regard to where you are spiritually today?
- What practical steps could you take to increase the presence of God (or awareness of his presence) in your life more frequently?
- Which fruits of the Spirit would the people closest to you (family, friends, co-workers) say they see regularly in your life? See Galatians 5:22-23.
- The New Testament talks about being baptized with the Holy Spirit. How do you understand Holy Spirit baptism and have you received it? How has this made a difference in your relationship with the God?

Ministry Time [10 Minutes]

This format is a suggestion. Feel free to design your own.

Pray for needs and desires in your group. Spend a few minutes asking God to make you aware of his presence and direction. As you pray, be attentive to his leading and power, even asking God how he wants you to pray for certain situations and needs. Consider praying for the gifts of the Spirit to be given. Does anyone need to be water or Spirit baptized? Be bold and help people take these next steps in their walk with Christ.