

Small Group Guide:

Oct. 23rd Sermon: Developing Power in Prayer on various Acts 1-4 (especially 4:31) & various Luke passages (See sermon notes)

REFLECTION:

What intrigued you or encouraged you most about this week's message on the Holy Spirit being the ultimate experience of our prayer?

Have you experienced the Spirit as being his best gift to you? (Luke 11:13) Is this rather a strange idea or foreign concept?

DISCUSSION:

Looking over your notes once again, is there anything that the HS in particular is using in catching your attention to encourage or challenge you? Anything that was harder to connect with or agree with?

What was foreign to your experience or past and what seemed to fit like a glove?

Read Rom. 8:23-27 What does it mean to you to have the Spirit interceding on our behalf? What may it mean for our prayer life?

What were your thoughts about praying for healing W/ POWER. Is it odd to claim power or pray for healing with confidence? How does it fit with us knowing God heals some and not all?

GETTING REAL & PERSONAL:

Group Experience of praying in the Spirit in community: (Use the guide that follows)

Begin a time together of preparing yourselves by using a time of silence and being present in prayer. Have everyone get comfortable and eliminate distractions. Get paper and pencils for those who might use it. Create prayer partners for part 2 of this exercise...move so as to be seated near one another's partner.

Group Leader: You should sensitively lead through these sections of a prayer time by praying or instructing out loud using the following...

Intro:

Begin by asking the HS to come and fill each within our group and help us in our praying. (Time of Silence) ...

Ask the HS to reveal to each one the ways we may have confined him in the past. (Time of Silence) ... guide the group to take some time to get right with God on any thing he reveals and invite him into all those places where we have kept him out in your life...Let the Spirit permeate every part of you! (Time of Silence)

Together Discuss: After several minutes of prayer reflection, take a time to reflect together what the Lord has revealed to us. Are there areas where we close off the

Spirit? What was experienced as you listened to him? (Obviously only go as far as is appropriate to your level of intimacy)

Group Prayer Exercise:

Take 5-7 minutes or so for each section of prayer (Leader keeps track of time while all others loose track of it and enter in) If you have a journal or paper & pen use it if helpful. However, don't get so caught up with writing you miss just being in the Spirit. Use the following to focus your prayer.

Part 1: Leader says something like... Get in a comfortable, relaxed position. Move if you need to. Begin by silently praying and asking the Spirit to speak to you and that you want to encounter him. Allow yourselves to be present and eliminate distractions.

“Pay attention to your own breathing... take deep breathes in through your nose and release out through your mouth... Feel your own body... your arms... your legs... relax your shoulders... relax all of what feels tight and just present yourself to the Lord. Offer him this time... You might use a breathe prayer just repeating something like, ‘Holy Spirit come’ ‘I am listening Lord’ or just ‘Jesus’ name repeated’ or anything that seems inviting to the Holy Spirit. But let go of other things and just be with the Lord.”

“Then listen and receive...I will be silent and you just receive from the Spirit whatever he might have for you... just receive... I will be quiet.”

Praise together: (Let the time go by) Now let's praise God together... aloud. Take joy in who He is... as led by the Spirit's promptings. (Just judge the time according to the participation. DON'T Force it or cut it short.)

Part 2: Leader says something like ... “Again go into silent prayer asking God now to bring to mind things that He would want you to pray on behalf of your assigned partner. Don't work at it, but just rest in it and ask the Spirit to reveal what they might need prayer for. I will tell you when we move to prayer for each other.”

(Let some time go by... 3-4 minutes) “OK let's all move together with our partners and one pray for each other what ever you sense they need.” (Again just judge the time according to participation)

Group Discussion & Debrief:

Talk as a group about what worked and what was difficult. Did you desire more or less time? Was there any encounter with the Spirit different then your normal prayer times? Why or why not?

Pastor Kevin said, “Spiritual Practices take practice!” How might this be true of prayer in general and this exercise in particular.

FURTHER STUDY:

Books on the topic:

Practicing the Presence by Brother Lawrence

Soul Feast by Marjorie J. Thompson, Chapter 3

Spiritual Disciplines Handbook by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun, Part 7

Invitation to Solitude and Silence: Experiencing God's Transforming Presence by Ruth Haley Barton

SERVING SNAPSHOT:

Crossview has two children's outreach events called '**Fall into Fun**' & '**A Night in Bethlehem**'. Volunteerism is always needed. Contact DeAnna Petersen (387-5606 ext. 104 for possibilities for service at these events.