

UMMMM... WHY?

This 5-week series focuses on the Holy Spirit and the role he plays in our lives. As you lead through this series, remember that the goal isn't for your group to come away with more information about the Holy Spirit - it's that they'd come away with a greater dependence on the Holy Spirit.

This week you'll need:

- A piece of paper and a pen for each person

CONNECT

Ask your group your choice of the following:

- Who have you prayed for this week?
- Who have you encouraged?
- What's one area you feel God is stretching or growing you in?
- What's been the highlight of this week for you?

DISCUSS

Have members of your group read out loud John 14:15-27.

NEW CHRISTIANS

- When you think of the Holy Spirit, what ideas or experiences come to mind? How would you describe your experience of the Holy Spirit to date?
- In what ways might the Holy Spirit act as the 'Spirit of truth' in a person's life? How has he been the Spirit of truth in your life?
- The Holy Spirit is also referred to as the counsellor and teacher in these verses. In what ways have you seen the Holy Spirit counsel or teach?
- What do you think Christianity would be like if Jesus hadn't have sent the Holy Spirit? What would be different?
- What do you think Jesus means when he says: "I will not leave you as orphans". How does this relate to your own life?
- Put yourself in the disciple's shoes. Your best friend and hero and the one who gave your life purpose and meaning is leaving you. And then he says all this. How would you feel?
- Based on what you know about Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit who do you feel you know the least well?



THE HOLY SPIRIT



UMMMM... WHY?

ESTABLISHED CHRISTIANS

- What stands out to you most from this passage?
- Describe an occasion when you remember experiencing the Holy Spirit in your life.
- Can you remember the first time you were ever aware of the Holy Spirit? Tell us about it.
- What do you think motivated Jesus to ask God to send the Spirit?
- Do you think being a Christian would be very different if the Holy Spirit had never been sent? See verses 19 and 20. In what ways?
- What's one aspect of the description of the Holy Spirit here that you can relate to?
- What aspects of The Holy Spirit's work would you like to experience in your own life?

INVOLVE

Ask every person to write down one question they have about the Holy Spirit and one way in which they would like to experience the Holy Spirit in the coming weeks.

Have each person share what they have written down, then ask for a volunteer to pray that each person in the group would grow in their experience of the Holy Spirit in the coming weeks.

Leader: Collect the pieces of paper and keep them somewhere safe.

APPLY

Ask your group to commit to one thing they will do this week based on what they've learned

LEADER'S NOTES

- Throughout the series, pray for the members of your group, allowing the information the members wrote on their pieces of paper this week to guide your prayers
- If you have some group members who are very comfortable praying and others who aren't, encourage the more experienced members to keep their prayers short and to-the-point. We don't want people to feel intimidated or discouraged by the elaborate and articulate prayers of the rest of the group.
- Many life groups have their own traditions on how to keep track of prayer requests and to acknowledge, remember and celebrate answers to prayer. These can be as simple as notebooks right up to elaborate paintings and other artworks. Why not ask your group if they have any ideas?





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This week you'll need:

- Printouts of the song 'Send the Fire'. You'll need enough for every person to be able to see the lyrics.
- Enough copies of the 'Speak Lord' handout for everyone to take one.
- A sheet of paper and texta or pen for every member.

CONNECT

Go around the circle and give everyone a chance to answer your choice of the following questions:

- What's one thing coming up in the future that you're excited about?
- If your life this week was like a car, what kind of car would you be? (e.g. an old bomb because I felt like I was about to break down, a racecar because I felt I was going really fast all week, a tank because this week I felt like I really conquered some tough stuff.)
- What's one thing you hope to do before you die?

DISCUSS

Have members of your group read out loud Acts 2:1-21.

QUESTIONS FOR NEW CHRISTIANS

- Imagine you are one of the people who are praying when all of this suddenly happened. How do you think you would feel?
- Have you ever experienced something similar to what is being described here? What happened?
- Peter points out that the prophet Joel actually predicted that this would happen. What do you think prophesy is and what do you think is the point of it?
- Have you seen prophesy at work in your church, ministry or own life? Can anyone share a word of prophesy they have had given to them personally, or that they have read about in Scripture?
- This verse talks a lot about the 'wonders' that can occur when people are filled with the Holy Spirit. Have you seen anything miraculous happen through the power of the Holy Spirit? Why do you think some people experience this more than others?
- How would you like the Holy Spirit to change your life/life group/ church/school?



THE HOLY SPIRIT

Life.





UMMM... WHO?

QUESTIONS FOR ESTABLISHED CHRISTIANS

- What stands out to you most from this passage?
- Have you ever seen the Holy Spirit move like this in your church or life group? How do you think people would react if he did?
- Why do you think some churches never experience the Holy Spirit in this way?
- Ask someone to read John 16: 12-15. Based on these verses, and the ones in Acts 2 what's one word you would use to describe the Holy Spirit?
- Read over the words of "Send the Fire" – a song written by the founder of The Salvation Army, William Booth. Do you think William Booth believed that we could experience the Holy Spirit in the way the believers did at the first Pentecost? Do you think it's possible?
- Were the believers who experienced Pentecost chasing after signs and wonders? What were they doing? Do you think we should chase after the spectacular? Why?

INVOLVE

Play some music, and ask every group member to look up and meditate on Acts 2:17-21. Ask each person to spend time listening to God, and to either draw or write what they sense God saying. After 10 minutes (sooner if they become restless, later if you think they are immersed in the activity) ask members to share what they wrote, drew or experienced.

APPLY

Ask your group to share one thing that they are going to do this week based on what they've learned or been challenged about.

AND/OR

Challenge each member to take a copy of the 'Speak Lord' exercise and spend some time using it this week.

LEADER'S NOTES

- Remember, come armed with questions rather than answers. You can guide the discussion with good questions, but avoid just forcing your ideas about prayer onto other people.
- Don't forget to set aside some time to ENJOY – have supper, play a game, or just chill!





UMMM... WHO?

SEND THE FIRE

Verse 1

O God of burning cleansing flame
Send the fire
Your blood-bought gift today we claim
Send the fire today
Look down and see this waiting host
And send the promised Holy Ghost
We need another Pentecost
Send the fire today
Send the fire today

Verse 2

God of Elijah hear our cry
Send the fire
And make us fit to live or die
Send the fire today
To burn up every trace of sin
To bring the light and glory in
The revolution now begin
Send the fire today
Send the fire today

Verse 3

It's fire we want for fire we plead
Send the fire
The fire will meet our every need
Send the fire today
For strength to always do what's right
For grace to conquer in the fight
For power to walk the world in white
Send the fire today
Send the fire today

Verse 4

To make our weak hearts strong and brave
Send the fire
To live a dying world to save
Send the fire today
Oh see us on Your altar lay
We give our lives to You today
So crown the offering now we pray
Send the fire today
Send the fire today
Send the fire today

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THE HOLY SPIRIT





UMMM... WHO?

SPEAK LORD

Take a pen and a notepad or journal with you to a quiet place, where you can be on your own. Sit down and get comfortable.

1. First up, ask the Holy Spirit to come. Ask him to talk with you.
2. Next, say your name out loud twice. Do it slowly, and pause between the first time and the second time. Say your name as if someone were calling you. And as you speak, think of it as God calling you.

Ask: What do you want me to confess to and repent of? Then listen. Pray. Take time with this.

3. Now call your own name again, two times, slowly. Ask: What do you want to say to me, Lord? Listen. Write down any thoughts that come to you. Take time.

4. Then call your name twice again, and this time ask: What do you want me to do? Listen.

5. When you have finished, spend a few moments saying thank you to God.



THE HOLY SPIRIT



GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

This 5-week series focuses on the Holy Spirit and the role he plays in our lives. As you lead through this series, remember that the goal isn't for your group to come away with more information about the Holy Spirit - it's that they'd come away with a greater dependence on the Holy Spirit.

This week you'll need:

- Printouts of the 'Words from the Founder' handout. You'll need enough for every person to be able to see the lyrics.
- Enough printouts of the spiritual gift definitions for everyone to see.

CONNECT

Go around the circle and give everyone a chance to answer your choice of the following questions.

- How's your week been out of 10? Why?
- What's one thing in your life that you're really thankful for?
- What do you reckon the best movie of all time is and why?
- If you could choose to have one amazing talent, what would you pick and why?

DISCUSS

Have members of your group read out loud 1 Corinthians 12:1-13.

QUESTIONS FOR NEW CHRISTIANS

- What's your first reaction to these verses of Scripture?
- Why do you think they're called 'gifts'?
- Do you think we're supposed to 'collect' them all?
- Who is one person you have seen display one of these gifts?
- Do you know what the writer Paul is talking about when he says that if we use our brains we will just know that certain things never come from the Holy Spirit? What are some things that the Holy Spirit would never say to you or tell you to do? How do you know?
- Have you ever felt like you're not as good a Christian as someone else because they have a spiritual gift that you don't have? How should these verses impact on how you feel?



THE HOLY SPIRIT



GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

QUESTIONS FOR ESTABLISHED CHRISTIANS

- What stands out to you most from this passage?
- Does a person need to have all of the spiritual gifts listed here in order to be a Christian? Why?
- In some parts of the universal church it has been taught that a person is only a Christian if they can speak in tongues. After reading this verse, do you think this is true?
- If you've never spoken in tongues or prayed for someone to become healed before – how do you discover you have that as a gift?
- As a group, go through the Definitions handout. Who is someone who comes to mind for each gift? Why?
- Read the quote from William Booth, founder of The Salvation Army about the purpose of The Holy Spirit within The Salvation Army. What stands out to you? What do you think would happen if your experience of The Holy Spirit was like that? What do you think would happen if every Salvationist had that kind of experience of The Holy Spirit?

INVOLVE

Ask your group members to look at the list of spiritual gift and ask each person to determine one that they have. If someone struggles, you might want to encourage other group members to help.

APPLY

Ask your group to share one thing that they are going to do this week based on what they've learned or been challenged about.

AND/OR

Challenge each group member to take a step of faith this week - to exercise the gift they have been given. Perhaps someone will commit to sharing Jesus with a friend this week, praying for a friend who is unwell, or seeking God for answers for advice about a friend's situation and passing this on to them.

Before they leave, ask them to share what they will do.

Let them know that they will be asked to share about their experiences next week at life group.

LEADER'S NOTES

- Is anyone missing from your group tonight? Don't forget to ask for volunteers to follow them up!



GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WORDS FROM THE FOUNDER:

“The Field Officer must lead his Soldiers on to the full realisation of the baptism of the Holy Ghost; he must make them Blood and Fire. The work of the Spirit is to fill the soul with burning zeal for the Salvation of the world. Christ’s work must be finished. He has left that task to His people; it can only be continued and carried on to completion by His Spirit working in the hearts and through the lives of His people. The Holy Ghost was promised for this end. This is what His people have, therefore, a right to expect, and without it they are powerless for the War.

“In order that his Soldiers may be effective, the Field Officer must not only act for the purification of his Soldiers, but to have them filled with the Spirit of Christ, in order that they may be competent for the mighty work they have to accomplish.

“This will make them wise. They will understand how to fight, what to say, what to sing, how to pray, and how to talk to the consciences and hearts of men. The Spirit of God will lead them into right methods of action, will show them how to make opportunities, and how to put these opportunities to the best use, when they are made.

“The Holy Spirit will give them perseverance, keeping them going on in the face of difficulty.

“The Holy Spirit will give them power, making them not only willing to endure the Cross but to glory in it.

“The Holy Spirit will give them the fire of love, the seraphic spirit, the live coal from off the altar, making them both burn and shine. With this they will come to the Knee-Drill, to the Open-Air, to face the mocking crowds, and to endure the scorn, and hatred, and persecution of men; not merely from a sense of duty, dragging themselves to it, because it is the will of God; or for the good of The Army; or as an example to their comrades; or even for the Salvation of souls; but because they love it, and cannot stay away.

“This baptism will be a fire in their bones, which must have vent. It will be a spirit that must have a voice. It will be a love, a burning love in the heart, which all the waters that earth and Hell can pour upon it, cannot quench a love with which no other love can compare. It will be the Saviour again loving a dying world through His people. It will be Christ indeed come again in flesh.

“The Soldiers must be baptised with fire. It will give them the Soldier’s spirit; and, with that, all a Soldier needs in the way of drill, and duty, and sacrifice will inevitably follow.”

The Authoritative Life of General William Booth, George Scott Railton, p. 267



THE HOLY SPIRIT



GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DEFINITIONS

WISE ADVICE

The ability from God to offer people useful, spiritually mature counselling.

SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE

The ability from God to sense Him showing you something, which can be shared with others.

GREAT FAITH

The ability from God to sense and believe in what He can and will do.

HEALING THE SICK

The ability from God to pray for people who are sick and see Him heal them.

MIRACLES

The ability from God to do or pray for things not normally possible for humans.

PROPHECY

The ability from God to sense Him speaking to you, giving you a message to encourage or challenge his people.

DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN SPIRITS

The ability from God to tell the difference between messages which are from God, and messages which are from other Spirits.

TONGUES

The ability from God to speak in a special prayer-language or in other natural languages that you did not learn.

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

The ability from God to hear people speaking in tongues and explain the meaning of what is being said.



THE HOLY SPIRIT



HOW TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

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CONNECT

Go around the circle and give everyone a chance to answer your choice of the following questions.

- Did you make any new year's resolutions in January? How are you going at keeping them?
- What's your favourite time of year and why?
- How would you rate your prayer life at the moment out of 5? Why?
- What's one thing about your behaviour that you'd like to change?

DISCUSS

Ask someone to read out loud John 3:5-8.

QUESTIONS FOR NEW CHRISTIANS

- We've all had a human birth. Do you think you've had a spiritual birth? How would you describe a spiritual birth to someone who'd never experienced one?
- Do we all experience a spiritual birth the moment we become a Christian?
- In verse 8 Jesus says that the Holy Spirit is like the wind. In what ways do you find this to be the case?
- If a person wants to receive more of the Holy Spirit, what do you think their first step should be?
- In what ways do you think the sin in our lives can be a barrier to The Holy Spirit filling us?
- Read John 3:8. Do you feel like you fully understand the Holy Spirit? How much does our understanding of The Holy Spirit effect how much we experience him?
- Out of 10, how hungry would you say you have been for The Holy Spirit? How often have you asked him for his Spirit?



THE HOLY SPIRIT



HOW TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

QUESTIONS FOR ESTABLISHED CHRISTIANS

- What stands out to you most from this passage?
- Do you think a person is filled to the max with the Holy Spirit the moment they are saved? Can a person ever be filled to the max with the Holy Spirit?
- Do you think there are things in your own life that might be preventing you from being filled up with the Spirit?
- Read Luke 11:13 How often do you ask Jesus for the Holy Spirit? How often do you think we should ask?
- American evangelist and founder of the Moody church D.L. Moody was once asked why he always asked God to fill him with the Holy Spirit. He said because he leaked. What do you think it means to 'leak' the Holy Spirit?

INVOLVE

Has everyone in your group experienced a spiritual birth? Invite each person to pray the following prayer. You may want to print out a copy for your group members.

"Dear Father, I need You. I acknowledge that I have been directing my own life and that, as a result, I have sinned against You. I thank You that You have forgiven my sins through Christ's death on the cross for me. I now invite Christ to again take His place on the throne of my life. Fill me with the Holy Spirit as You commanded me to be filled, and as You promised in Your Word that You would do if I asked in faith. I now thank You for directing my life and for filling me with the Holy Spirit."

APPLY

Ask your group to share one thing that they are going to do this week based on what they've learned or been challenged about.

AND/OR

Challenge each group member to wake up 10 minutes earlier than usual every day this week and spend that time asking the Holy Spirit to fill them and direct them that day.

LEADER'S NOTES

- Want some tips for discussion times? Check out our LIFE leader's manual at salvos.org.au/more.
- Remember that as a leader, your role is to bring questions rather than answers to the discussion. Wherever possible, avoid giving a young person advice or an answer to something they've shared, but ask questions to help the group respond to the issue themselves.



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

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CONNECT

Go around the circle and give everyone a chance to answer your choice of the following questions.

- If you were an item of clothing, what would you be? Why?
- Who is the most interesting person you've met recently? Why did you find them interesting?
- What's one thing that's different about you compared to what you were like last year?
- Where are you at with God this week? What have you learned through reading the bible?

DISCUSS

Ask someone to read out loud Galatians 5:16-18.

QUESTIONS FOR NEW CHRISTIANS

- What do you think it means to "Live by the Spirit" (Galatians 5:16)?
- In what ways do you live by the Spirit in your own life?
- Galatians 5:17 talks about the way our sinful nature (or 'flesh') tries to pull us in a different direction to the Spirit. Can you tell us about one way in which you have experienced this?
- Romans 8:5-6 focuses on our thought life. What sorts of things do you think we can do to help our thoughts be Spirit-led?
- If we are saved – that is, have been spiritually reborn – do we need to worry that sin might get the better of us? See Romans 8: 9-11.
- What's one thing you could do in your life to ensure that you are 'walking in the spirit' and experiencing his Spirit in a fresh way?

QUESTIONS FOR ESTABLISHED CHRISTIANS

- What stands out to you most from this passage?
- Who is someone who you believe 'walks in the Spirit'? What about their life makes you think this is a good description of them?
- Do you believe that you are walking in the Spirit? Why?
- What's one way in which you have experienced the sinful nature pulling you towards that which is not of God?



THE HOLY SPIRIT



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

- In Romans 8:11 we read that “The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you.” Think about how powerful that Spirit was/is. Have you experienced that power in your own life yet?
- Read Romans 8: 9-11. If we have been born of the Spirit do we need to worry that the flesh will defeat the Spirit?
- How open would you say you are to the Holy Spirit’s leading in your day to day life?
- William Booth once said that every Salvationist should “plead the baptism of the Holy Ghost every hour”. How will you position yourself to experience a fresh touch of the Holy Spirit every day in your own life?

INVOLVE

Throughout the bible we read of people laying hands on people and praying for them to receive the Holy Spirit (e.g. Deut 34:9, Acts 8:17-18, Acts 9:7, Acts 19:6). As a group, set aside a large part of your night to lay hands on and pray for each person in your group one at a time.

APPLY

Ask your group to share one thing that they are going to do differently after this series .

LEADER’S NOTES

- ‘Walking in the Spirit’ might look like meditating on God’s word, talking about spiritual things, asking for His Holy Spirit to fill on us daily or choosing to avoid exposing our senses to things that stimulate our sinful desires.
- Are there any other young people in your church who you’d like to see join the group? Ask some group members to invite them during the week.
- If you haven’t read it in a while, it might be good to revisit the LIFE Leader’s Handbook. It contains a whole pile of practical advice on how to be a great life group leader. If you don’t have a Leader’s Handbook, head to salvos.org.au/more and download a free copy!
- Include prayer as a part of your night. Maybe ask someone to open and someone else to close in prayer?

