

GETTING READY FOR THE

HOLY SPIRIT

Week 2 - Four basic works of the Holy Spirit

week
two

September 30,
2018

Just as our lives take place along a continuum, we can see God working through the Holy Spirit along a continuum of sorts with Four Basic Works. This is observed initially from our Spiritual Birth, with times of transformational Spiritual Growth in our lives, as well as episodes of Equipping and Empowering to help us be effective and fruit-bearing witnesses for Jesus Christ. Additionally, the Holy Spirit is at work in every part of our life, first connecting us effectively with the Father and Jesus Christ, then bringing us together in Fellowship as a church - sharing the Gospel, living out the Gospel.

Icebreakers (Pick one or do them both!)

1. Do you like to eat fruit? Share about one of your favorite fruits and/or share of a memory of trying a piece of fruit where the fruit wasn't good - what was wrong with it?
2. What is a favorite activity/memory you have with a group of Believers? Share specifics about what made the event enjoyable.



growing deeper

Small Group Questions:

Spiritual Birth - Read: John 3:1-8, John 1:12-13, I Corinthians 12:3

1. How is 'being born of the Spirit' an important part of a life of Faith in Jesus Christ?
2. It is critical, even in the church, that there are opportunities and places for an individual to become a Christian. What does a person need to do to become a Christian or be "born again"? What does the Holy Spirit do? List some of the opportunities River Rock offers that are ways to receive salvation.
3. Have you taken a step of faith, to be "born again" by the Spirit and be incorporated into God's family? Share briefly your personal story of Spiritual Birth (When? How? What happened?). If you have not yet made a decision to follow Jesus Christ and to be born of the Spirit, consider asking your group to pray a prayer with you at your meeting time.

Spiritual Growth - Read: Galatians 5:16-26, Romans 12:1-2, II Corinthians 3:17-18, Ezekiel 36:26-27

4. Can you list the "Fruit of the Spirit" without looking at scripture?
5. How are Christ-like characteristics grown in a person of faith? What is the role of human effort? What is the Holy Spirit's role?

CONTINUED



Equipping and Empowering - Read: Acts 1:8, Acts 4:7-13

6. Just as Jesus' miracles were 'signs' that pointed to his identity, a basic aspect of the Spirit's work is one that enables Christians to function effectively in their witness to Jesus. What are some ways in the present you'd like to ask the Spirit to help you as you seek to be a witness to Christ?

7. Do you have any examples from last week, where you saw evidence of 'Equipping and Empowering' or help after inviting cooperation with the Holy Spirit? (Last week's - A Step Further)

Fellowship - Read I John 1:1-4, Acts 2:42, I Corinthians 12:12-31, Ephesians 4:4,15-16

8. List your ideas of what 'fellowship with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ' may look like for an individual or group today.

9. Why is cooperation with the Holy Spirit essential for Fellowship within a body of Believers? Describe how Fellowship is intended to look like in a church body? How is this easy for you or difficult?

Praying Together:

Reflect on the Works of the Holy Spirit discussed:

*Thank the Lord for the many ways the Holy Spirit connects us to the Father and Son through Prayer and understanding Scripture.

*Offer to pray with someone in your group that may be seeking Spiritual Birth or wants to learn more about this.

*Lift up requests from #6, what are ways you'd like the Holy Spirit to help you through Equipping and Empowering?

*Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide our fellowship with one another.

Closing prayer: Lord, we praise you for showing up in our lives. Thank you for offering the counsel of the Holy Spirit, when we take a step of faith, believing in Jesus Christ as Lord. We are sorry for the times when we have tried to do life without you. We ask you to now lead us. Lord, please release your Holy Spirit in our hearts and minds to help us grow more like you and to be equipped to live in fellowship with one another. May you give us a strong sense of discernment to recognize your good fruit and move toward that, but also knowledge to recognize what is not of you, in order to be protected from deception, corruption and pride in ourselves. We again thank you for Father for helping us learn further about the Holy Spirit. We pray in gratitude to Jesus - Amen

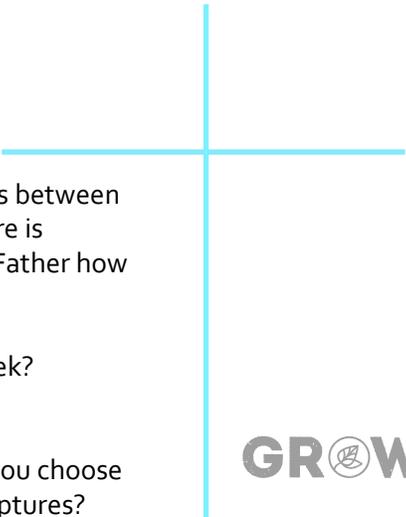
A Step Further:

"Koinonia" is a Greek word that discusses the two-fold fellowship that the Spirit enables between individual Christians, as well as between an individual and the Father (I John 1:3-4). There is nurturing and safety in Koinonia. Spend some time in prayer this week asking God the Father how He desires for you to participate in this type of fellowship with Himself and Believers.

-What will you do to seek fellowship with God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) this week?

-How will you explore fellowship possibilities with Believers this week?

Invite the Holy Spirit not only to guide you, but equip you. Consider also: Do the ideas you choose this week have potential for producing Holy Spirit 'Fruit' and do they align with the Scriptures?



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