

CONNECT GROUP NOTES

DEEPER

**INSTEAD BE FILLED
WITH THE SPIRIT**

WEEK 4



FOR THE FACILITATOR

Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions. It is best to ask the questions as they appear instead of waiting till the end

TOPIC : Deeper week 4

Sermon audio:

www.outlookchurch.co.za/sermons/385

TIME TO PONDER:

Today in our DEEPER journey we are going to do something a bit different. We know that everyone's journey is different. As such we

want to address two different groups of people.

These two groups are firstly those who have not yet stepped into the River of Life. This may be due to ignorance, or just a stubborn refusal to accept the Gospel of Grace. The other group is those who have stepped into the river tentatively and then due to misuse, abuse or fear have stepped back onto the bank.

Question 1: Can you identify anyone who falls into either of these groups? Were you ever in this position?

Often our attitude to the Holy Spirit is shaped by how the Holy Spirit has been

misinterpreted by others or how they have used the Holy Spirit for personal gain.

This can result in people staying away from anything to do with the Holy Spirit. They become very sceptical of what is happening with the Holy Spirit and shy away from getting to know Him.

We as believers need to have a thorough understanding of who He is and how he works in our lives so that we can demonstrate what a privilege it is to be in relationship with the Holy Spirit. Not for our own gain, but that we may be led and equipped to serve our Lord and Saviour and bring others into that relationship with Him.

We can trust that no matter where we are or where others currently are, the Holy Spirit is always at work. He will plant seeds in our lives and reveal himself to us till the reality of His work in our lives draws us deeper into His Presence and into relationship with Him.

The challenge today is for those who are still sceptical, to set aside all preconceived notions of the Holy Spirit and start again. To allow God to reveal Himself to you through the Holy Spirit.

Question 2: What negative ideas did you have regarding the Holy Spirit? Has the misuse, abuse or poor understanding of who the Holy Spirit is led you to be sceptical?

TIME TO REFLECT:

Let's look briefly at some of the workings of the Holy Spirit.

Genesis 1

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

Even in the very beginning the Holy Spirit was present and working. He is eternal. An equal part of the Godhead: God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit.

He was working in the lives of God's people from the very beginning and has never stopped working. He wants to work through all of God's people.

1 Samuel 10:6

6 At that time the Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them. You will be changed into a different person.

From this passage we see that Saul had just been anointed King. He had the favour of God on him but needed the Holy Spirit's help to become the person God wanted him to be. The Holy Spirit equips and empowers us for the tasks ahead, just like He did for Saul. If we submit to His leading we will be transformed into the person we were always

meant to be and able to do the tasks He has set out for us to do.

We too have God's favour through Jesus. But in order to do, and be, all who God wants us to be we need the Holy Spirit's enabling power.

John 16:7-14

7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgement. 9 The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me. 10 Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. 11

Judgement will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.

12 “There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. 14 He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me.

One of the Holy Spirit's tasks is to convict the world of sin. Sin is rebellion. He will show you areas in your life where you are not doing what you should be doing. For those who are standing on the banks of the river, the Holy Spirit is still working. He will convict them of sin and bring them into a relationship with Him.

Question 3: Can you identify areas in your life where the Holy Spirit has convicted you? How were you able to change with His help?

TIME TO DISCUSS:

12 “There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.

Verse 12 tells us that there is ‘much more’ that Jesus wanted to tell us, but He had to return to the Father. And so left us the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth to guide us.

What does it look like to be guided by the Holy Spirit? It is one step at a time. We are called to walk a supernatural salvation but we can only do that guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We cannot walk a supernatural salvation with only natural strength.

Galatians 5:16-18

16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. 18 But

when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

We need the Holy Spirit's guidance and strength to live godly lives. We need to be led by the Holy Spirit. We need to keep in step with the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:25

25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit often doesn't work the way we expect Him to work. We have trust in Him, even when the road ahead seems tough. He wants to lead us but we get to choose to follow or not. He will only ever lead us down a

good path, where we will grow and be blessed.

We need to be aware that our prayers are heard. We can't pray and ask for something and then expect nothing to happen! So when things do begin to change, or opportunities arise, we must be careful not to back away from the very things we asked for.

Walking with the Holy Spirit is not an optional extra, it is a matter of survival in the Kingdom of God.

Acts 2:37-39

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

The Holy Spirit wants to lead people to salvation. Allow Him to use you as His mouthpiece, as He did with Peter, so that others can come into a living relationship with God the Father.

ACTION STEP

What decisions do you need to make to trust the Holy Spirit? Now that you can see the evidence of how the Holy Spirit works, are you willing to lay aside your scepticism and take the next step in walking with the Holy Spirit?

This week pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you someone that needs to be encouraged to go deeper. Allow the Holy Spirit to show you how to talk to them. Ask Him for insight into their situation. Then trust Him and open up a conversation.

To listen to other sermons

<https://outlookchurch.co.za/sermons>