

CONNECT GROUP NOTES

DEEPER

**INSTEAD BE FILLED
WITH THE SPIRIT**

WEEK 5



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 5

Sermon audio:

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TIME TO PONDER:

As we have seen and need to be reminded. We cannot float into deeper relationships, especially one with the Holy Spirit. It requires

time, faith and obedience. The river of the Holy Spirit is there, but it's up to us to press deeper and deeper into it till we hand over control fully to the Holy Spirit's moving.

This is not an emotional journey. It's not about chasing a feeling but it is about pursuing the person of the Holy Spirit. It is about giving over our hearts and minds to what God wants to do and to say through us.

Question 1: Can you tell the group of one example/testimony where you have handed over control to the Holy Spirit and been obedient to His leading? Or an instant where you may have missed it this week?

Today we will be looking at the change that takes place in our lives once we have been in the river of the Holy Spirit.

Once we have been immersed in Him, it opens our eyes to see things we would never have seen before. He also allows us to produce certain fruit in our lives. Evidence that we are living in step with the Holy Spirit.

Genesis 1:28

28 Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply.

Genesis 1:28 tells us to be fruitful and multiply. Note, not just to multiply but we are called to be fruitful. We are called to bear godly fruit; this is the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

- Firstly we are called to be fruitful. But the right kind of fruit. What comes out on the outside, shows very clearly what is happening on the inside, as we can see from the passage below

Matthew 7:15-16

*15 “Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. 16 You **can identify them by their fruit**, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?*

People should be able to identify us by the fruit of the Holy Spirit, if we have been in His river.

Matthew 21:43

43 I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation that will produce the proper fruit.

Let's not lose what we have been given but let's tap into the vine so that we can produce much fruit.

John 15:5-8

5 “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. 6 Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. 7 But if you remain in me and my words remain in you,

you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! 8 When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

Apart from God we cannot bear fruit. Let's bring God glory by staying connected and bearing much fruit.

Question 2: What fruit are you displaying on the outside?

TIME TO REFLECT:

- Secondly we can't be fruitful on our own.

John 3:6

6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

Flesh gives birth to flesh. We can't do it! But the Holy Spirit can. Fruitfulness always follows faithfulness. If we are faithful staying connected to the vine and in the river of the Holy Spirit we will be fruitful.

Ezekiel 47:6-12

6 He asked me, "Have you been watching, son of man?" Then he led me back along the riverbank. 7 When I returned, I was surprised by the sight of many trees growing on both sides of the river. 8 Then he said to me, "This river flows east through the desert into the valley of the Dead Sea. The waters of this stream will make the salty waters of the Dead

Sea fresh and pure. 9 There will be swarms of living things wherever the water of this river flows. Fish will abound in the Dead Sea, for its waters will become fresh. Life will flourish wherever this water flows. 10 Fishermen will stand along the shores of the Dead Sea. All the way from En-gedi to En-eglaim, the shores will be covered with nets drying in the sun. Fish of every kind will fill the Dead Sea, just as they fill the Mediterranean. 11 But the marshes and swamps will not be purified; they will still be salty. 12 Fruit trees of all kinds will grow along both sides of the river. The leaves of these trees will never turn brown and fall, and there will always be fruit on their branches. There will be a new crop every month, for they are watered by the river flowing from the Temple. The fruit will be for food and the leaves for healing.”

It is only once we have been in the river do we see what God has been doing. Have you been watching? Pay attention to what God is doing.

Question 3: Have you ever experienced your eyes opened to something of what God is doing?

TIME TO DISCUSS:

So what is this fruit that should be evident in our lives? Naturally the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Gal 5:22-26

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience,

*kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23
gentleness, and self-control. There is no law
against these things!*

*24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have
nailed the passions and desires of their sinful
nature to his cross and crucified them there.*

*25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us
follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our
lives. 26 Let us not become conceited, or
provoke one another, or be jealous of one
another.*

There will always be a tug of war between the
flesh and the Spirit. So what do we do?

Let the Holy Spirit lead your life. Relinquish
control. Open your hands. Open your hearts.
We when we give up our control. We are not

left out of control, but under the hand of the Holy Spirit's control. In step with Him.

Have you ever tried to dance closely with someone where no one is leading? It's awful. We need to submit to the Holy Spirit. Submit to His leading. We are not perfect. We need to submit to the perfect Holy Spirit and let Him lead then we will see fruit evident in our lives.

We can't be full of ourselves and full of the Holy Spirit.

Make a stand and release control. Trust in Him. We are new creations. So that we can have a relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Question 4: What areas of your life do you need to release to Him? So he can have control.

ACTION STEP

On the cross Jesus said it is finished as He offered up His life for us. What areas of your life are you still hanging onto with your flesh? Jesus died to justify us (Just as if we had never sinned) and make us holy so that we can have a relationship with His Holy Spirit.

Are you prepared this week to leave behind those things He is calling you to leave behind? Allowing Jesus to declare it is finished and accepting that finished work. So

that those areas no longer have a hold on you?

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