



ENCOUNTER

THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER



GETTING STARTED

This Thursday we will be gathering in the Worship Center for **Encounter**. The purpose of this Encounter is to grow in our experience of the person, presence, and power of the Holy Spirit.

We have created this four-day study to prepare for this special night. The idea is that you would do one study a day, starting Monday and finishing on Thursday. However, if your Life Group meets earlier in the week, please complete all four days before your Life Group meets.

Here are the four topics we will explore each day:

- **Monday:** *The Holy Spirit in Creation & the Nation of Israel*
- **Tuesday:** *The Holy Spirit in the Prophets of Israel*
- **Wednesday:** *The Holy Spirit in John the Baptist and Jesus*
- **Thursday:** *The Holy Spirit in the Early Church*

As you prepare your heart for this study, pause and reflect on this command Jesus gave His followers after His resurrection:

*Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for **the gift my Father promised** ... For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. **Acts 1:4-5***



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

THE SPIRIT IN CREATION & ISRAEL

1. The Bible introduces us to the Spirit at the very beginning of the Bible. Read **Genesis 1:1-2** and **Psalms 104: verses 1, 5-6, 10-11, 19, 21, 24, 27, and 30**.

- a. What do these verses teach us about the role of the Spirit in creation?
- b. Have you ever thought of the Spirit as being part of the WHOLE story of Scripture, both Old and New Testaments, not just “after Jesus”? Explain.

2. Throughout the Old Testament, we see God set His Spirit on key leaders—often prophets, priests, and kings—to guide the nation of Israel. Read the following verses:

- Numbers 11:24-25
- Deuteronomy 34:9
- Judges 6:34-35
- Judges 14:5-6

- 1 Samuel 16:11-13
- 1 Chronicles 12:16-18

- Write down any observations from these verses about what happened when God gave His Spirit to these leaders.

Take a moment to scan this QR code and watch a short video on *The Spirit in Creation & Israel*.



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14

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 THE PROMISE OF THE PROPHETS

As we learned from Day 1, in the Old Testament, God usually sent His Spirit to empower certain leaders of Israel who were often prophets, priests and kings. But the prophets of Israel promised that one day, when the Messiah came, God would anoint Him with the Spirit and God would pour out His Spirit on all His people.

- What does Isaiah prophesy about the Messiah in **Isaiah 11:1-2**?
 - How is the Holy Spirit described in this prophecy? What are the attributes of His character?
- Here are two more prophecies about the Messiah: **Isaiah 42:1** and **Isaiah 61:1-3**.
 - What will the Holy Spirit empower the Messiah to accomplish?
- Read **Joel 2:28-29**. What does Joel promise will happen when the Messiah comes?
- Read **Isaiah 44:1-5**. This is another prophecy about what God will do when the Messiah comes. How is the gift of the Holy Spirit described in this passage?
- One of the greatest promises about the coming of the Spirit is in **Ezekiel 36:25-27**.
 - According to this passage, what are some of the gifts the Holy Spirit will bring?
 - What are some ways you have experienced the transforming power of the Spirit in your own life?
- Use Ezekiel 36:25-27 as a framework for prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to cleanse you, enable you to turn from idols, to give you a new heart, and empower you to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Take a moment to scan this QR code and watch a short video on *The Promise of The Prophets*.



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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

THE PROMISES OF JOHN THE BAPTIST & JESUS

1. The Holy Spirit was involved in the life of Jesus from His very conception. Read **Luke 1:35**. How do you see the Trinity (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) all working together to bring salvation to the world?
2. In **John 1:29-33**, what are some of the powerful predictions John the Baptist makes about Jesus?
3. Read **Luke 4:1-2, 13-14** and **Matthew 12:28**. What do these passages teach us about Jesus and His ministry? Do you believe the Holy Spirit can lead and empower us in the same way today? Explain.
4. Read **John 7:37-39**. Jesus was teaching to a crowd at the temple courts during the Festival of Tabernacles when He spoke these profound words.
 - a. Why do you think Jesus describes the Spirit as *rivers of living water*?
 - b. If the Holy Spirit flowed like a *river of living water* within you, how would that impact the lives of those around you?
5. Read through the following verses and write down how Jesus describes the Holy Spirit and what the Spirit does.
 - John 14:15-17, 25
 - John 15:26
 - John 16:12-14
 - a. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit work in these ways in your own life?

Take a moment to scan this QR code and watch a short video on *The Promise of John the Baptist & Jesus*.



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16

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER

1. Read **Acts 1:1-8** and then answer the questions below.
 - a. What does Jesus mean when He refers to “*the promise of the father*”?
 - b. Why does He tell His disciples to wait until the Spirit comes to them?
 - c. What will the Holy Spirit empower them to do? How have you seen this play out in your life?
2. Now read **Acts 2:1-4, 38-39**.

- a. What happened to the believers on the Day of Pentecost?
 - b. In vs. 38, what is Peter's charge to the people? Who is the promise for?
3. In Acts 5, the Apostles Peter and John have been arrested by the religious leaders in Jerusalem for sharing the message about Jesus and His resurrection. What do they tell these leaders in **Acts 5:32** about the Holy Spirit? What are the implications for our lives?
 4. Take a few moments to read through the following verses and jot down key words or insights about the Holy Spirit.
 - John 3:5-8
 - 1 Corinthians 2:12-14
 - 2 Corinthians 3:16-18
 - Galatians 5:25
 5. How have you seen the Holy Spirit empower you in your life? In the lives of fellow believers?

Take a moment to scan this QR code and watch a short video on *The Promise of The Father*.



ENCOUNTER

Now that you have completed this four-day study on the Holy Spirit, spend some time thanking God for the gift of the Spirit and ask Him to meet and fill us with His Spirit, both personally and as a church, when we gather to meet with Him at Encounter.