



## JESUS & THE SPIRIT WEEK OF APRIL 6



### POTLUCK & COVENANT

This week, we start the spring session of Life Groups with a potluck and covenant meeting. Your Life Group Leaders should have contacted you by now to make sure you know the time and location of the meeting and what to expect for the first gathering. If you have not heard from your Life Group Leaders, please contact Samantha Poladian at (818) 709-0113, ext. 105, and she will help to get you connected.

The Life Group Covenant explains the purpose of your Life Group, clarifies the expectations for being a part of your Life Group, and explains what you are committing to for this session. Your covenant will look different based on whether you are in an in-person group or a digital (Zoom) group.

As you prepare for your meeting, make sure to take some time to answer the questions in the study and then bring them with you to your first meeting.

Finally, we encourage you to use a journal or extra paper to write down your answers.

Enjoy!



### READING ASSIGNMENT

This week, we are reading pages **271-273** and **276-281** of Dallas Willard's *The Divine Conspiracy*. The PDF of these pages is available on our website at [rockypeak.org/disciple](http://rockypeak.org/disciple). If you prefer a hard copy, you can pick one up at Starting Point on the patio of the Worship Center during weekend services. You can also access the reading by scanning the QR code here.



### GETTING STARTED

This weekend, we learned that when we come to faith in Jesus, something supernatural happens. We receive the Holy Spirit, who not only gives us new life, but also empowers us to follow Christ in our everyday life.

Begin this study by reading these verses a few times, slowly.

*Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

**John 4:13-14**



## GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

If you could live anywhere else in the world, where would it be and why?



## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. In the Old Testament, the prophets of Israel predicted the coming promise of the Holy Spirit. Read **Ezekiel 36:25-27** and **Joel 2:28-29**.
  - a. Based on these verses, what does the Spirit do when He comes into our lives?
  - b. What excites you about these promises?
  - c. Is there anything about this supernatural work of the Holy Spirit that makes you feel nervous? If so, why?
  - d. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit working in your life as described in these verses?
2. Go back to this weekend's message note sheet and review all the verses from the Gospel of John that Michael shared. Pay special attention to the verse(s) that the Holy Spirit seems to highlight for you. Which one or two verses stand out to you the most? Why do you think that is?
  - a. In these verses, Jesus makes clear that the Spirit will come to those who believe in Him and follow His commands. Do you have an assurance that you've received the Holy Spirit? What evidence do you see of Him working in your life?
3. The Apostle John understood long after Jesus left Earth that the Spirit would empower those who believed in Jesus to follow His commands and live as Jesus did. Read the following verses:
  - **1 John 2:3-6, 20-23, 27**
  - **1 John 3:10-18**
  - **1 John 4:13-16**
  - **1 John 5:1**
  - a. Read **1 John 2:3-6** again. Do you think your life reflects a life of obedience to His Word? Explain.
  - b. Now read **1 John 2:20-23**. Do you embrace the truth of Jesus, that He died for your sins, was buried, and rose on the third day? Is there anything in you that questions this truth? Why or why not?
  - c. Thinking back over the last weeks, months, or years, since coming to faith in Jesus, how have you grown in your love for others, as in John's example in chapter **3:11-18**?
  - d. Reread **1 John 4:13-16** and **5:1**. What do these verses teach about those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God?
4. Through this series, we've been learning that to believe in Jesus means to trust Him with every area of our lives and give Him the highest allegiance. This weekend, Michael challenged us with the same question he began the series with, "*Are You ... A Disciple Of Jesus?*"
  - a. How would you answer that question today?

- b. Has your answer changed since this series began, and if so, why?
  - c. If you answered no to his question, what might be hindering you from following Jesus and fully surrendering to Him?
5. This week, we read an excerpt from Dallas Willard's *The Divine Conspiracy*. Review the section, "How Are We to Be with Him?" on pages **276-277**.

One of Dallas' insights in this section is: "*If I am Jesus' disciple that means I am with him to learn from him how to be like him.*" And later, he writes that one of the most important ways we learn from Jesus is by spending time with Him in Scripture and quiet.

He writes:

*God's preferred way is to speak, to communicate: thus, the absolute centrality of scripture to our discipleship. And this, among other things, is the reason why an extensive use of solitude and silence is so basic for the growth of the human spirit, for they form an appropriate context for listening and speaking to God.*

- a. Have you found this to be true in your ongoing relationship with Jesus? Are you making time to spend with Jesus, to hear from Him, and learn from His Word? What does that practice look like in your life?



## LOOKING FORWARD

During the spring session, in what area(s) of your life do you hope to see the most growth as it relates to being a disciple of Jesus? Are there any lifestyle changes you need to make and would like accountability for? If so, discuss that with a trusted Christian friend or your Life Group Leader.



## TOPICAL PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of each Life Group. Often those who are new to a Life Group are intimidated by praying aloud if they have never done it before. Others are so comfortable with prayer that they can take over the prayer time without meaning to. For these reasons, we suggest practicing topical prayer to help your group get comfortable praying together. Here are three basic guidelines:

### 1. Focus on a Single Topic/Request at a Time

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request. Once a topic is introduced, one or two members pray for that request. Then the Life Group Leader will direct the prayer time by sharing the next topic/request.

### 2. Pray Several Times Together

By focusing on one topic at a time, each member has an opportunity to pray at different times for the requests they are most passionate about.

### 3. Keep Requests/Prayers Short and Simple

By keeping both requests and prayers short and simple, everyone has a chance to share and pray. This helps those who are new to prayer feel more comfortable praying. It also helps everyone stay focused during your time of prayer together.