

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of August 8-15, 2021

## “BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT”

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### GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Can you think of a person you looked up to while you were growing up? Why did you see that person as a hero?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Ephesians 5:18-21

1. Paul contrasts being filled with the Spirit and getting drunk with wine. What makes this such a good illustration?
2. What do you think are the differences between those filled by the Holy Spirit and those that are not? (see Ephesians 5:15-21, 1 Corinthians 2:14-16, Galatians 5:16-24). What could be the underlying reasons why a Christian can do “spiritual things” without being led by the Holy Spirit?
3. Can you share an instance when you did something or when you were in a situation where you felt the empowering of the Holy Spirit in you?
4. Why is thankfulness an important part of the Christian life? What keeps you from thanksgiving? Why is it important that our thanks be directed to God?
5. Why is submission to God-ordained authorities important in the life of a believer? (see Hebrews 13:17, Romans 13:1-7, Ephesians 5:22-30; Ephesians 6:1-4, 1 Timothy 6:1-2) Who are the God-ordained authorities in your life and which area of submission is difficult for you? How can you exhibit obedience to this command in that area?
6. In the sermon, we learned that being filled with the Holy Spirit will show up in our lives (Ephesians 5:19-21). It manifests in having a joyful heart, being thankful, and being submissive to God-ordained authorities. Which particular area is the Holy Spirit speaking to you to improve on and be subject to his leading?

7. What areas in your life today are you not submitting or are having a difficulty submitting to the control of the Holy Spirit? (e.g. career choice, family leadership, personal devotions, business or work management, self-control, dispensing forgiveness or asking for forgiveness, finances and generosity, service, etc.) Take the time to pray for one another on these areas.
8. **[NEXT STEPS]**  
*Being filled with the Holy Spirit touches our need to be in control. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are saying to him, “I don’t have to have my way. Have your way, Lord.”*
  - The Holy Spirit is actively empowering me to overcome sin and temptations in my life so I will submit to him and trust him as he leads me in the process of surrendering.
  - I will devote a daily time of prayer to be able to hear the Holy Spirit clearly
  - I will be humble to accept rebuke and correction from godly people who may be telling me I am not walking by the Spirit in a specific area of my life.

*Don’t forget to:*

  - Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
  - Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.
  - Commit 30 minutes a day for God’s intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

### CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for the empowering of the Holy Spirit to maximize the opportunities, gifts, and resources God has given us to advance his kingdom by preaching the good news.
- Pray for humility, integrity, and faithfulness in our walk that people may see the presence of the Holy Spirit and the transforming work of Christ in our lives.
- take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.

### BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

August 9. Ephesians 1.  
August 10. Ephesians 2.  
August 11. Ephesians 3.  
August 12. Ephesians 4.  
August 13. Ephesians 5.  
August 14. Ephesians 6.  
August 15. Matthew 8:18-34.