



Course leaders guide

You can adapt this course for home groups, Bible studies, or discipleship meetings. Church leaders might choose to meet around tables, or to follow the notes below in a plenary session (everybody together).

The course videos, participant's guides and the place to order the book of the course, *Power for Living*, by Eric Gaudion are all found at holyspiritcourse.com.

Small group leader's notes: The Holy Spirit Course

Theme: Knowing, experiencing, and walking with the Holy Spirit

Duration: 60–90 minutes

Main scriptures for preparation: John 14:16–17, 25-26; Luke 11:9-13; Acts 1:8, 2:1-4;

(Suggestion: Read Eric Gaudion's book '*Power for Living: The Holy Spirit Course*' yourself and if possible, obtain one for each member of your group)¹

Course Content:

Session 1: Who or what is the Holy Spirit?

Session 2: Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Session 3: Supernatural Lifestyle 1 (Gifts of the Spirit)

Session 4: Supernatural Lifestyle 2 (Gifts of the Spirit)

Session 5: Supernatural Lifestyle 3 (Fruit of the Spirit)

Session 6: How to be filled with the Holy Spirit

Session 7: Living by the Spirit

¹ Available from the course website holyspiritcourse.com or from booksellers.



1. Welcome and opening prayer (5–10 min)

- Welcome everyone, introducing any newcomers.
 - Briefly share the theme: e.g. *Tonight, we're going to explore who the Holy Spirit is, his role in our lives, and how we can walk in step with him.*
 - Open in prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to lead the session.
 - Watch a video worship song, or listen to appropriate music.
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2. Watch the video (15–20 min)

It is advisable to prepare yourself and your equipment by watching the video through beforehand. Pray that God will use it to open hearts and fill people with his Holy Spirit. Always check that the sound level is appropriate for your group setting. If using round tables, don't forget to invite those with their backs to the screen to move their seats and be more comfortable.



3. Discussion questions (20–30 min)

Use these to guide discussion. Adjust based on group size and engagement.

WEEK 1 - For further study and reflection

- What do you think the main point of the Day of Pentecost was for the early Christians?
- What does the Day of Pentecost mean for you today?
- 'We might be orthodox in our theology but cessationist in our experience.' What do you think this means? ('Cessationist' is a term for folk who do not accept that the miracles in the New Testament occur today.) Does this describe your own experience?
- Have you ever experienced a 'Pentecost' moment of being filled with the Holy Spirit? If so, what changes came about because of it?
- Looking at Acts 1:8, what do you think the main purpose of being baptised in the Holy Spirit really is?

WEEK 2 - For further study and reflection

- What were the evidence(s) of the baptism in the Holy Spirit in the life of the early church?
- What changes happened in the early Christian community after Pentecost (read Acts 2:42-47, Acts 4:32-35)?
- Why do you think that 'boldness' seems to have marked the early Christians following the Day of Pentecost? (Acts 4:29, 31, 9:28, 13:46, 14:3, 18:26, 19:8, 28:31.)
- What do you think might prevent folk from seeking their own 'baptism in the Holy Spirit' today?
- How would you answer these reservations?

WEEK 3 - For further study and reflection

- Why do you think God chose the gift of tongues as a sign of the fulness of the Holy Spirit?
- What does the gift of tongues mean to you?
- What are three main goals of the gift of prophecy given by Paul in 1 Corinthians 14:3?
- In what ways does the New Testament gift of prophecy seem to differ from its use in the Old Testament?
- How should we respond if a 'word' given, or prophecy be shared, that seems to contradict the clear teaching of Scripture?
- Read 1 Corinthians 14:31. What purposes and/or restrictions does it seem that Paul is putting on the use of the gift of prophecy here?

WEEK 4 - For further study and reflection

- Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-21 again. How does this passage apply to:
1) You?
2) Your local church?
- Have you experienced any of the gifts of the Spirit mentioned above? Share those experiences with one another if you are in a group, or thank God for them if alone.
- What do you think Paul meant by '*Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit*' in 1 Corinthians 14:1?
- Have you experienced anything that could be described as a miracle?
- Why do you think there is such a lot of interest in the occult and the supernatural today?
- Have you experienced healing because of the gifts mentioned in this chapter? How do you think someone in the medical profession could exercise spiritual gifts today?

WEEK 5 - For further study and reflection

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. What does Paul prize above tongues, prophecy and knowledge? Why do you think that even faith and self-sacrifice is put below love in these verses?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. What characteristics of love does Paul describe here? How might these aspects of character affect church and/or family life?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-13. How does Paul help us to keep the gifts of the Spirit in a right perspective?
- How has the spiritual fruit of kindness affected you? Who do you know who really seems to exemplify the presence of this fruit in their lives?

WEEK 6 - For further study and reflection

- Take time to read again these relevant Bible passages relating to the Spirit: Joel 2:28-32; Luke 3:16, 11:9-13; Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2:1-4; Ephesians 5:18-20
- What do you think are the main hindrances to being filled with the Holy Spirit today?
- How would you answer the suggestion that the miraculous is not for today?
- Invite the group to share their own experience of the Lord, or if alone find someone you can trust to share yours with (Romans 10:9).

WEEK 7 – For further study and reflection

Just as a general resume of the course, you might want to use one or more of these questions, or else to use the prayer set out in the final chapter of the book *‘Power for Living: The Holy Spirit Course’* by Eric Gaudion.

1. Who is the Holy Spirit to you personally?
2. Have you ever experienced the Holy Spirit’s guidance or presence? What was that like?
3. What does it mean to be “filled with the Spirit”? (Ephesians 5:18)
4. Which fruit of the Spirit do you feel God is growing in your life right now? Which do you struggle with?
5. How can we become more aware of the Holy Spirit’s presence day to day?

4. Application (10–15 min)

Encourage the group to think practically - here are some ideas:

- This week, how can you invite the Holy Spirit into a specific area of your life?
- Suggest journaling or setting aside time daily to ask, *“Holy Spirit, what are you saying to me today?”*
- Remind folk that the Holy Spirit breathes on the Word of God, and so it is important to read the Bible daily as we ask God to speak to us (2 Timothy 3:16)

5. Prayer ministry time (10–15 min)

- Perhaps once again play an appropriate worshipful song (see our list of suggestions).
- It may not feel necessary to have a prolonged time of prayer after each session, but there will be moments when it feels right to do so. Perhaps pray ‘Come, Holy Spirit!’ and wait on him.
- Invite people to receive prayer to be filled or refilled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13).
- Pray in small groups or pairs. If praying for someone to be filled with the Spirit, perhaps take their hand or place your own on their shoulders, but no shaking, shouting or pressure please!
- If someone falls or shakes, don’t be alarmed. Just wait with them quietly and watchfully as they drink in the Spirit.
- If you sense the Spirit is touching someone, encourage them to use their lips and voice to speak out in tongues.
- If there are no outward signs or sounds that something is happening, that is not a reflection of all that God is doing for that person, nor all that he is going to do in the days following! Remain positive, hopeful and thankful.
- If appropriate, encourage waiting quietly on the Holy Spirit, and listening for what God is saying.

Leader tips

- Keep the conversation focused and allow everyone to share.
- Be sensitive - some may come from different backgrounds regarding the Holy Spirit. In this course there may be questions and even some debate, but we should remain humble, gracious and kind as we defend truth.
- Be open to the Spirit’s leading both before and during the meeting.
- If you think it’s appropriate, choose sensitively some quiet worship music to be played on your sound system as folk gather, or perhaps at the end, especially after week 7.
- When we make room for God to move – he does!