

## **E.M.T.**

The entire purpose of this study is to help you realize God has called you to live their life on mission. Jesus said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you” (John 20:21). Every person, regardless of their experience, skillset, job, socio-economic status, or personality, is called to share the Gospel of Jesus through their words and actions. A secondary goal is for every person to disciple another into a life-changing relationship with Jesus. Once you are discipling a new believer, you will get a few others to join you as you go through E.M.T. with the new believer.

By the end of this eight-session study, our prayer is for every participant to realize God’s power, favor, influence, and anointing is not reserved for the clergy alone. To see people reaching people and obeying the Great Commission by making disciples. Imagine what God could do if every Christ-follower woke up and prayed, “Lord, open my eyes to see who I can encourage, pray for, or bless.” What would happen if each person’s job and neighborhood became their mission field? Imagine the transformation if everyone was discipling someone?

Each week is designed to follow the same format to create consistency and clarity. Every session, you will experience the following format.

- Ice Breaker/Question
- Scripture
- Discussion Questions
- Examination – time to process what God is speaking.
- Exercise – a practical action step for everyone in the group to take. Each week there will be one challenge so the group can encourage each other and hold each other accountable.

It is essential for you to prayerfully spend time with the examination and exercise portions in each session. If you make this component a priority, you will experience significant growth throughout this study. As you allow God to stretch you, motivate you, and enlarge your heart for people, God will use your obedience and faithfulness to make disciples.

The next eight sessions have the potential to transform your life, your group, and your circle of influence. There is no limitation of what God can do through hearts that are fully surrendered to Him. When we choose to live on mission, we will experience His power and presence in fresh ways.

On the journey with you,

Jeremy Gyorke  
Lead Pastor  
Wyandotte Family Church

# Leaders Study Guide

## **SESSION #1**

### Ice Breaker:

- What is your greatest fear when it comes to sharing your faith with others? Take time to go around the room and give adequate time for each person to answer.

### Scripture:

- Read John 1: 1-5, 14.
- These verses reveal the passionate missional heart of God. Jesus has always been in existence within the Trinity. "' And the Word was with God' gives the second fact or truth concerning 'the Word.' 'and' links the two traits as equal. The preposition 'with' (pros)...implies mutual fellowship and intercommunication. Thus the Son was with God in a close personal relationship."
- Jesus is the Word of God who created all things. As one reads the first four verses, one understands the sheer power and majesty of Jesus. Verse 4 says in Him was life, and the darkness has not overcome it. Verses like these cause one to pause and worship God solely for who He is. Despite His power and majesty, we still read verse fourteen. The Word became flesh and dwelt **among us**. Even though Jesus is God, He chose to come and set up a residency with us. In the same manner, God dwelt with His Israel in the Old Testament through the Tabernacle; Jesus came to dwell among His children by putting on the tabernacle of flesh.
- We also read the same truth in Philippians 2:5-7. Jesus was willing to leave the comfort of His throne and majesty and willingly pursue humanity. The pursuit was so intentional; He was willing to enter humanity and put on flesh (incarnation)
- Questions –
  - What does Lord Jesus model for us regarding reaching those who are not currently in a right relationship with God?
  - Is reaching people with the Gospel about attracting others, hoping they come, or about taking the truth to where people live?
  - What would have happened to humanity if Jesus never left His comfort to enter this world?
  - What does this passage reveal to us about mission?

- The second passage of the study will be Luke 15:3-5. The parable of the lost sheep is one of three connected parables expressing the love and passion of the Heavenly Father. In this famous parable, there are one hundred sheep, but one gets lost and wanders off on its own. Jesus asks a pointed question to the religious leaders. Would the shepherd leave the ninety-nine to go after the one lost sheep? The answer is, of course, is yes or a good shepherd pursues the lost sheep.

The profession of a shepherd was naturally familiar to Jesus' audience, but there is a more profound revelation from this analogy. "A loving shepherd knew his flock intimately, often having names for every sheep. The awareness that one of his precious charges was missing would send him on an instant mission." A shepherd knew His sheep so intimately from the amount of time he spent taking care of each one. In the same way, Jesus knows His children and pursues His children who stray.

These verses in Luke reveal the missional and incarnational heart of our Father through His Son. Jesus spends time with His sheep, learning their name and paying attention to their lives. One cannot know someone this intimately unless they are incarnational. Second, Jesus was willing to pursue the one lost sheep. He spent time and energy pursuing those who needed to be brought back to the fold.

- Questions –
  - Do we get to know people as intimately as a shepherd knows his sheep, or do we resort to sharing only Gospel information with others?
  - What is the most significant barrier to spending time with people outside of the church?
  - What would it look like for us to pursue the one lost sheep?
- Jesus punctuates the parable by giving us a glimpse of what is important and celebrated in heaven. When one sinner repents, all of heaven rejoices. Heaven rejoices, even more, when one sinner repents than ninety-nine righteous staying with the shepherd. Jesus makes reaching those who are not in a right relationship with Him a significant priority. Week one will end with one examination and one exercise.

### Conclusion:

- Examination- Take a look at your personal and family calendar, does it reflect the same priorities and time investment as Jesus displayed in the parable of the lost sheep? How much time was spent on building a relationship (getting to know people) and how much time was spent on pursuing those who were lost? If very little time was spent on pursuing a relationship with those who do not know God, how was most of the time spent?

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- Exercise - During the next fourteen days, take the cross challenge. Prayerfully decide if God is directing you to cross your fence, street, or barrier. Crossing the fence would be strategically taking time to connect and begin to build a relationship with your next-door neighbor. Crossing the street would be strategically connecting and beginning to develop a relationship with someone close to where you live. Crossing a barrier would be finding someone different from you, either ethnically, politically, or socially, and begin to build a relationship.<sup>1</sup>
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- Choose any area of your life (i.e. exercise, spiritual, educational etc.) in the past where you can easily identify growth? Why do you think you grew so much during that season? What were a few contributing factors to your growth? What were contributing factors to the growth slowing down?

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<sup>1</sup> Hugh Halter and Matt Smay, *The Tangible Kingdom Primer: An Eight-Week Guide to Incarnational Community* (Missio Publishing, 2009), 15.

## SESSION #2

### Ice Breaker:

- Why do you think the longer someone is a Christian, the easier it is to lose all relational connections with people who are not Christ-followers? How many friendships are you building with those who do not know Jesus yet?

### Scripture:

- Read Luke 19:1-10.
- The focus of the second week of E.M.T. will be studying and discussing Luke 19:1-10 and John 4:1-45. Luke 19 contains the compelling story of Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector who desperately wanted to see Jesus. "The Greek imperfect tenses show that he was repeatedly seeking to see Jesus. However, no matter how hard he tried, Zacchaeus could not see Him because he was so short, and the crowd was so large." How many people are in the community who would like to see Jesus, but for whatever reason cannot? Jesus once again models the priority for His children to pay attention and to pursue.
- Zacchaeus had no idea what was in store for him that day as Jesus calls him by name (like a good shepherd) and sets a plan to go over to his house. "Zacchaeus 'made haste, and came down,' as Jesus had commanded him, and he 'received him joyfully.' The reception of Jesus (Greek, hupodechomai) implies an eager reception or welcome into one's house as a guest." Even though many religious leaders complained and criticized Jesus for going to his house, Jesus reminded everyone the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. People are looking for Jesus right now that would joyfully engage in a relationship if God's people are willing to pursue like Jesus.
- Questions-
  - Throughout a typical day, how often do we look for people to engage in conversation with?
  - If Zacchaeus did not have a good reputation, why did Jesus pursue a relationship with Him?
- Have everyone open their Bibles to John 4:1-45. Ask a few people in the group to read these verses out loud.
- The second passage of week two is John 4:1-45. This particular passage shares the story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well. The disciples leave to get food, and a Samaritan woman comes to get water from the well. Jesus engages her in conversation, and her life is never the same.

- There are two significant truths to highlight in this passage. First, "Jesus crosses strict cultural boundaries separating races (in the general sense of culturally distinct peoples), genders, and moral status." Jews and Samaritans worshipped the same God, yet there was a hostility that stood between them. Jesus models for His children a missional heart to pursue and draw people back to the Father. Seeing people restored to a right relationship with the Father was more important than cultural expectations or facing potential criticism from others.
- Questions –
  - How often does the fear of criticism keep us from having spiritual conversations or sharing your faith?
  - How did Zacchaeus respond to the relational love of Jesus?
- The second truth to highlight from this passage is found in verses 34 and 35. Jesus said, My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are ripe for harvest. Jesus reveals the heart of the Father and His mission. Missio Dei, the mission of God, is to restore His children to a right relationship with Him. Jesus knew His mission and stayed on mission. Alan Hirsch says, "Missional incarnational impulse - mission is not a department but influences and directs all departments. {sic}"
- In the same manner, a disciple does not merely **add mission** to their life as another task to do. Mission becomes the core of the Christ-follower and directs all other aspects of life. As His followers, we are to open our eyes in everyday life because the harvest is ready to be brought in. "Since harvest is a common eschatological (theology of the end times) symbol (e.g., Isa. 27:12; Joel 3:13; Mark 4:1-9; Matthew 13:24-30; Rev. 14:14-16), the saying of Jesus represents the gathering of people into the Kingdom of God." God is on a mission, and for Jesus to be Lord, one must be on mission, just like their master.

### Conclusion:

- Examination – Take ten minutes and examine how you spent your time the past two weeks. Think through your job, shopping trips, neighborhood, family time, and establishments you frequent often. Write down the answer to this question. Am I making time to strategically pursue those who are not currently walking closely with Jesus?

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Exercise - For the next fourteen days, “find one person to bless with no strings attached.”<sup>2</sup> The goal of this exercise is to pray every morning for God to open your eyes to the harvest that is already present. Then proactively look as you go about your daily life and see whom you can encourage, serve, and help. Before bedtime, take a moment to journal the experience. Who were you able to bless, and what did you do? How did the person respond? How do you think it drew them closer to the Father? In what ways did you partner with God on mission? In what ways did you resist what He was doing?

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- Also, read through the entire Gospel of Luke. Read 3 chapters a day. Underline every verse that identifies Jesus or His disciples on mission, drawing people closer to the Father.

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<sup>2</sup> Hugh Halter and Matt Smay, *The Tangible Kingdom Primer: An Eight-Week Guide to Incarnational Community* (Missio Publishing, 2009), 39.

## **Session #3**

### **Ice Breaker:**

- What is your favorite story of Jesus in the Bible, and why?

### **Scripture:**

- The focus of week three of E.M.T. will be on discussing people's thoughts after reading the entire Gospel of Luke.
  - What was Jesus' main priority through the Gospel? How could you tell?
  - How is mission connected to Jesus as Lord?
  - What surprised you about the mission of God as you read the Gospel of Luke?
  - Who was able to be involved in the mission?
  - Who had the opportunity but missed out on joining God on mission?
  - Share one verse regarding mission that impacted you the most.
  - Have you ever been on a missions trip before? Share your experience with the group.
  - What is it about missions' trips that are so powerful?
  - Have someone read out loud Philippians 3:18-20.
  - What is prohibiting you from living your life on mission?

### **Conclusion:**

- **Examination** - Meditating on the Scriptures and allowing them to examine our lives is a powerful spiritual discipline. For the next seven days, memorize and write out the one verse from Luke that had the most significant impact on you. Once you have it memorized, share it with your smaller group along with why the verse is currently speaking to you.
- **Exercise** - Just as the disciples were sent out two by two (Luke 10:1), go with one other person this week to a coffee shop, café, or public space. Before you enter, pray Father God, You said the harvest is right in front of us. As we enter this establishment, open our eyes to see what You see. Open up doors for divine strategic conversations we pray. In Jesus name, Amen.

Spend at least thirty minutes, seeing whom God connects you with. Journal your experience before bedtime and come prepared in session four to share.



## **Session #4**

### **Ice Breaker:**

- Share a time in your life where you struggled with friendships and felt lonely. What changed, and when did you step out of that season?

### **Scripture:**

- Open your Bible to the Gospel of Luke to make it easier to refer to during this session.
  - Week four is when the practical action steps increase. Now each person has a foundation of how Christology impacts missiology; we are going to shift the focus for a few sessions to practical application.
  - Have each person write down the names of people in the circle of influence that do not know Jesus (ex., Family members, neighbors, co-workers, friends, and baristas). Give everyone ten minutes to think of one way they could serve, encourage, pray for, and practically love each person. It will not be possible to implement the entire list due to its size; however, the practice of prayerfully thinking missionally in each relationship will be beneficial in the long run.
  - Once the ten minutes are done, begin to share about Alan Hirsch's scale of discipleship. The scale explains the various potential missional interactions. He describes people as m0-m1, m1-m2, m2-m3, and m3-m4. Those closer to m0, the more one has some concept or understanding of Christianity. The further away from m0 one gets the further from the Christ-centered paradigm one is. *(Please see Appendix 3: Alan Hirsch's Scale of Discipleship for further explanation).*
  - The goal is to draw people closer to the Father because of their interaction with you. If someone is m4, they will be more resistant to the Gospel and will often be more skeptical. The goal is to love, serve, build a relationship, and live on mission. God will use His children to move someone from an m4 to an m3 or m2.
  - Spend the next five minutes writing down three names where they may be on the scale. Pause and pray for God to use you and others to help draw them closer to the Father.
  - The remainder of this session will be spent focusing on how to develop relationships with others and practical steps to be missional in everyday life. Tim Keller describes three avenues people can take to build relationships with others.
1. One can take a more **informal approach** and meet one on one with another. The goal is to have one on one meetings on a consistent or semi-consistent basis. The goal is to take advantage of opportunities that naturally arise in regular conversation to share

aspects of your faith and life in Christ. One could share what they read from the Bible earlier that day, a message they heard from church, or something specific God is speaking.

- As opportunities present themselves, ask questions about other people's beliefs and listen to their story. As they share their story, ask more questions to focus on listening and understanding. If the individual is currently going through a challenging circumstance, remind them they are not alone and let them know you will pray for them. After you have listened well, if the opportunity arises, share your own story, including the struggles, so they can see how God can work in people's lives.
- 2. The second approach is also meeting one on one with another, but it is more **intentional** than the first approach. Meet with someone to go through a book or a sermon together. Afterward, ask questions, discuss, and listen to their thoughts. Ask what their most significant reservations about Christianity are. One could also meet regularly to read and discuss the gospels together.
- 3. The third avenue, one could build a relationship with others, is to invite them to a small group or church activity to experience a vibrant Christian **community**. Some people are hesitant to attend a church service, but they will come over for a barbecue or attend a Fourth of July celebration and fireworks. These various opportunities provide chances for others to meet people and feel more comfortable. These three ways to build relationships are not an exhaustive list, but nonetheless, they are three approaches one could take to building relationships.

### Conclusion:

- There are many practical tips for how to build a healthy rhythm of a missional-incarnational impulse. In the appendix of this leader's workbook is a two-page list of practical tips, and steps people can implement to reach out missionally. Have each person turn to **Appendix 1** in their student workbooks and take time to read the practical tips.
- **Examination** - Think about your day. How many people did you interact with today, and write down the total? Out of all the interactions, was there an awareness of the Holy Spirit with you? Why or why not?
- **Exercise** - For the next fourteen days, select one of the practical tips from Appendix 1 and prayerfully follow through. Come prepared next week to share how the interaction went.

## **Session #5**

### **Icebreaker:**

- What practical tip did you choose from the last session and how did it go?
- What is the hardest or most fearful thing you have ever done? How did you get over your fear?

### **Scripture:**

- Read Matthew 14:22-33.
- **Questions** - Once you are done reading Matthew 14, ask the following questions.
  - What do you think Peter thought before he stepped out of the boat onto the water?
  - Why do you think Peter ended up having the courage to step out of the boat?
  - Because Peter stepped out of the boat, what did he get to experience?
  - When did Peter start to sink?
  - When it comes to living missionally, what feels difficult for you?
  - If God honored Peter's faith when he stepped out of the boat, what do you think God will do for you as you step out of "your boat?"
- The goal of E.M.T. is to help move you one step closer to living a life on mission. Also, to help you take one step closer to understanding the significance of accountability and strategic friendships. Once you lead someone to Christ, your next step would be to take the new believer and another believer through the E.M.T training. The training can be done in a home, coffee shop, café, or park. The new believer and the others would go through the same study of Scripture, examinations, and exercises.
- **Questions to discuss** –
  - What Gospel are you currently reading, and what is God speaking to you?
  - Who are you currently praying for and building a relationship with?
  - How can I pray for you?
- One of the best ways to embed God's word and truths into your life is to teach it to others. Be thinking about who you can take through E.M.T. once you are finished.
- Following the relational model moves discipleship from being strictly an organizational responsibility to being everyone's responsibility. As the church (or the people) live lives on mission and disciple others, the Gospel multiplies and grows in a way an organization never could.

### **Conclusion:**

- Questions -
  - So far, in this study, what has been the most impactful aspect for you?
  - What has been the most helpful, and why?
  - What has been the most challenging, and why?
- Examination - Think about the past 2 weeks. How many people did you interact with and write down the total? Out of all the interactions, was there an awareness of the Holy Spirit with you? Why or why not? Did you pray with others, share your faith, or invite others to church or Life Group? Why or why not?
- Exercise - For the next fourteen days, select another practical tip from **Appendix 1** and prayerfully follow through. Come prepared next week to share how the interaction went.
- As you close, ask three to four people to pray out loud. Ask them to pray for the group and for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to live daily on mission.

## **Session #6** (includes a video teaching)

Icebreaker:

- What practical tip did you choose this time from the last session, and how did it go?
- Growing up, what was your experience with the Holy Spirit?
- How much did your family and church discuss the role of the Holy Spirit?
- When it comes to the Holy Spirit, what are you most interested in? What are your hesitations?

Scripture:

- Read Acts 1:6-8.

Introduction:

- Question: Why did Jesus want His disciples to wait until they were filled with the Holy Spirit?
- Everyone's faith journey is so unique, and our faith backgrounds can influence our understanding of the Holy Spirit. If we come from an unchurched background, what we know about the Holy Spirit would be different than someone who came from a Baptist church, for example.
- The Holy Spirit empowers us to fulfill **the mission** of God and display the **heart** of God. We desperately need to grow in our relationship with the Holy Spirit. Let's pray and open our hearts to what God is going to do as He continues to build us into everyday missionaries.

**WATCH SERMON: The Holy Spirit in YOU (37 min.)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hr6-5-tGHl0>

Conclusion:

- What is something that stood out to you about the Holy Spirit from the video or what we talked about?
- Examination - What is one thing you learned about the Holy Spirit during this session? If the Holy Spirit creates and makes things new, what is He currently making new in your life? Where do you see the Spirit's activity in your life and/or your family?

- Exercise - For the next 14 days, read one chapter a day in the book of Acts starting in chapter 1. When we come back together in 2 weeks, we will all have read through Acts 14. Every time you see the word Holy Spirit underline it. Every time you see the activity of the Spirit, circle it.
- For further study and learning on the Holy Spirit, check out the **HOLY SPIRIT PATHWAY** on our website and in the church app under **Pathways to growth**.

## **Session #7** (includes a video teaching)

### Icebreaker:

- Growing up, did you tend to obey your parents or disobey?
- Now that you have grown up, do you usually follow leadership well, or do you tend to be the rebel?

### Scripture:

- Read John 14:15-18
- John 14:15-18 (NLT) "If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him because he lives with you now and later will be in you. No, I will not abandon you as orphans-I will come to you."

Question: What are some critical aspects of the Holy Spirit we read in this passage?

Read John 14:15-18.

Question: Describe a time in your life when you needed comfort during a situation, but you felt all alone.

Question: What is the difference between walking through a difficult situation alone versus having someone to walk through it with you?

- Read John 15:26 and John 16:8 and answer the following question. Based on these Scriptures, what does it mean to you that the Holy Spirit is your Advocate?

**WATCH SERMON: What does the Holy Spirit do.**

<https://wyandottefamily.org/media/mk4nspz/session-2-what-does-the-holy-spirit-do>

### Discussion:

- What is something that stood out to you about the Holy Spirit from the video or what we talked about?
- Read Psalms 27:1 (NLT) "The LORD is my light and my salvation-so why should I be afraid? The LORD is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?"
  - What can you discover from this verse?
  - On a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 being not very anxious and 4 being very anxious, rate yourself on how anxious you are about the future. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in a plan to walk in greater peace and not in anxiety. Write it down.

- Read John 14:26 and Romans 8:16 and answer the following. "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."
  - How has the Holy Spirit testified, taught, or reminded you of something you have read from God's Word?
  - Why do you think you need the Holy Spirit to remind you of things?
  - On a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 being very important and 4 is not very important, rate how well your spirit is filled with the things of God. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in a plan to fill your spirit with the things of God. Write it down.
- In what ways has the Holy Spirit used the Word of God to change your perspective?

#### Conclusion:

- Examination - How often do you read and pray the Scriptures? How often does the Holy Spirit use them to guide you throughout an average day? Write down your thoughts.
- Exercise - Choose a verse below to memorize. Read and meditate on the verse daily. Come prepared to the next group, ready to share what verse you memorized. Share the verse with the group (by memory) and why you chose that verse.

When we feel lonely, the Holy Spirit reminds us that God is with us.

- "Because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you'" (Hebrews 13:5). When we feel insecure, the Holy Spirit reminds us that God is our confidence.
- "I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure" (Psalm 16:8-9).
- When you pass through the waters, I will be with you" (Isaiah 43:2).

When we feel uncertain, the Holy Spirit reminds us that He is our Counselor.

- "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you" (Psalm 32:8).

When we feel depressed, the Holy Spirit reminds us that He is our Comforter.

- "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18).



## **Session #8**

### Icebreaker:

- What verse did you memorize over the past 14 days? Was it hard to memorize? Why or why not?
- Why did you choose that verse? Did it help change your perspective?

### Scripture:

- Read Acts 2:17-18.

### Question: What Old Testament passage is Peter quoting?

- Are there any differences between the the O.T. passage and Peter's version? Write your answer.
- *Side Note:* In 1906, the Apostolic Faith Mission on Azusa Street in Los Angeles, California, erupted into a Spirit-filled revival, different in scope and fervor from previous revivals. People traveled as much as thousands of miles to experience this revival. Some people rejoiced, some were curious, skeptical, or critical-just as people were on the Day of Pentecost! But, the Azusa Street Revival became the foundational event for most modern-day Pentecostal fellowships.

### Scripture:

- Read Acts 2:1-4

### Question: How many in the upper room were baptized in the Holy Spirit?

### Question: Remember Acts 1:8, what is the purpose of being baptized in the Holy Spirit?

### Question: If the disciples already had the Holy Spirit at salvation, why was there a need for another Holy Spirit experience? (Acts 2:1-4, Acts 4:31)

### Question: If believers already have the Holy Spirit at salvation (which they do), why would Paul command the believers in Ephesus to be filled with the Spirit?

- Ephesians 5:18-Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Side note: The phrase 'be filled' in the Greek is a present-tense verb, which connotes an ongoing filling. We receive the Holy Spirit at salvation. God wants to baptize us (immerse) us in the Holy Spirit continually, so we are empowered to walk in His Spirit on

mission in this world.

## WATCH SERMON:

<https://wyandottefamily.org/media/vt2vpyd/session-3-how-can-i-be-filled-with-the-holy-spirit>

Question: How have you experienced the Holy Spirit in your daily life?

Question: Why would God choose tongues as an evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit? It starts with understanding that the Book of Acts is not about tongues. It is about something else, and tongues are a signpost to it.

- We are also going to see how TONGUES AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST are connected. (ACTS 2)
  - David is named a total of 13 times in Luke and 11 times in Acts.
  - Luke has frontloaded his narratives with references to David: Luke 1:27, 32, 69; 2:4 (2 X), Acts 1:16, 2:25, 29, 34.
  - Luke views Jesus as the fulfillment of the Davidic promises (2 Sam. 7) and the King who reigns eternally on the Davidic throne.
  - He writes Jesus was born in the city of David because he is building a Davidic theme. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Davidic covenant.  
Luke 2:11 – “For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”
  - In Acts 1:16 and 2:25 he is building a theology that Jesus is KING (Davidic King)
  - Luke is developing a theology of Jesus reigning on David’s throne NOW, and He is the one who pours the Spirit.
  - The double occurrence of the kingdom in both Acts 1 (3, 6) and Acts 28 (28, 31) forms an inclusion around Acts. Many Biblical authors use inclusions or frames to communicate the central theme in that book. Everything in between the frame is connected to the main theme.
  - A frame for the book of Acts is **KINGDOM** - Luke 2:11
  - Luke purposely fashioned the narrative of Acts in such a way as to place the entire story in the context of the establishment of God’s kingdom through Jesus Christ.
  - The book of Acts is not about tongues; it is about the KINGDOM being fulfilled by Jesus.
- The center of the Kingdom is the death and the resurrection of Jesus.
  - As Acts progresses, the message of the kingdom of God and Christ’s resurrection become practically synonymous until Luke finally closes the book with Paul, “proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrances.

- Kingdom/Lord Jesus Christ parallel equal. Death and resurrection = Kingdom.
- Tongues have to fit within this context, or can't understand the gift of tongues.
- TONGUES are a proclamation of CHRIST AS LORD. A prophetic sign of Jesus.  
Acts 2:36 – Let all the house of Israel, therefore, know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ this Jesus whom you crucified  
Acts 10:36 – As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching the good news of peace through JESUS CHRIST (he is Lord of all)  
Acts 28:31 – proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Tongues are all about declaring the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Every time in Acts, we see followers of Christ baptized in the Holy Spirit; it was so they could proclaim the Kingdom of God (death and resurrection of Jesus to others with boldness).
- The purpose of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit is all about carrying on the mission of Jesus Christ. Tongues may be a part of it, but it is not the focal point. Jesus is the focal point. It is about empowerment to go out into our world and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with Boldness. We are called to be a people on mission.

Question: Why would God choose to use tongues as a new spiritual gift (because up until this point in Biblical history, there is no substantial record of anyone speaking in tongues)?

- Tongues are a sign and the fulfillment of the Prophecy in Joel.  
 Joel 2:28-29—And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days, I will pour out my Spirit.
- Acts 2 is the first time the Holy Spirit is poured out on all flesh.
- It is symbolic of the nations. Jesus said the Gospel would be preached in every nation and then the end would come. Tongues represent the beauty of the nation's exalting the name of Jesus.

Question: So now, why should every Christ-follower seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit (2nd encounter of empowerment)?

- 1 Corinthians 12:31 – eagerly desire the greater gifts
- 1 Corinthians 14:1-2—Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. 2 For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.
- We see in the two verses above to seek spiritual gifts, especially prophecy. In the context of the 9 spiritual gifts in Corinthians, which ones are the greater (higher) gifts? (They are all the greater gifts. If they are the greater gifts or what is the lesser gift?)
- The Gift of tongues – that gift is different from all of the other gifts? Why? It is the only gift that has 2 functions.

-It has a PUBLIC FUNCTION –when combined with interpretation, it can bless the congregation.

-It also blesses the person who is speaking in tongues (own personal building up), which is a PRIVATE FUNCTION. It doesn't apply to any other gift of the Spirit. Every other spiritual gift is for the edification of the Body only. Only Tongues edifies the individual as well. This is why Paul wants everyone to speak in tongues, and he even says I speak in tongues more than you all.

- 1 Corinthians 14:4-5 – The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.
  - 1 Corinthians 14:18 - I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.
- Everyone who is filled with the Holy Spirit can speak in tongues. Therefore, they should speak in tongues. We speak in tongues as the Holy Spirit empowers us. The Spirit doesn't speak in tongues, we do.
    - Acts 2:4 – And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
    - So, how do you know if you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit or had this 2nd encounter? If someone has been baptized in the Holy Spirit, they must do something empowered (supernatural). If there is nothing supernatural, you have not received the 3rd baptism.
    - According to Luke/Acts, empowerment is an experience where you do something objectively supernatural. Something beyond your natural ability. It is so much more than goosebumps and tingles. It is an empowerment to operate in the supernatural, in which everyone who has received has the ability to speak in tongues.
    - Remember, you can be far from God and speak in tongues. We don't use spiritual gifts as a way to measure people; we use the fruit to measure people. Gifts are free, but fruit is developed through relationship.
  - If you want to grow in the following areas, open up your heart to the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
    - An unquenchable hunger for God. (Psalm 42:1, Rev. 2:4-5)
    - Genuine love for others (1 Corinthians 13, Galatians 5)
    - Unwavering commitment to God's Word (2 Tim. 3:16, Psalm 119)
    - Empowered to live on mission (The book of Acts)
    - The ability to exercise spiritual gifts, including prophecy & tongues. (Acts 2:1-4, 10:46, 19:6; 1 Cor. 14:1, 5, 18.). Every believer baptized in the Holy Spirit has the

<sup>3</sup> The above content in sessions 5-8 has been taken from the “Who is the Holy Spirit” kit by Doug Clay, Teachings from Pastor Brian Lidbeck, Northpoint Bible College and Dr. Glen Belfour, Northpoint Bible College.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Practical steps to live a life on mission** (adapted from Center Church by Tim Keller<sup>4</sup>)

#### **How to build relationships with neighbors:**

1. Keep a regular schedule and go to the same places at the same time as much as possible. If you do the shopping, try to go to the same grocery store and the same checkout line. Go to the bank to cash your check simply to engage people. Go to the same haircut establishment. Go to the same coffee shop and get to know the baristas. The consistency will allow you the opportunity to build a relationship over time.
2. Actively pursue ways to get to know others in your building or neighborhood. Participate in resident or association meetings consistently. If you use a laundry mat, spend time there meeting people while you wait.
3. Participate in a group or club that engages in a hobby you enjoy. Instead of creating a Christian hunting club, join a local club nearby. Instead of starting a running group at your church, join a local running club/group.
4. Participate in city sports teams.
5. Look for volunteer opportunities in your community and invite a neighbor or friend to join you. For example, city-wide beautification, adopt a block, or park clean up. One could also serve at local nonprofits and with other organizations.
6. If you have school-aged children, get involved with the schools and get to know other parents. Volunteer for school events and build a relationship with people.
7. Participate in citywide events, festivals, and other activities. Invite one or two to join you.
8. Simply be hospitable to neighbors.

#### **How to build relationships with colleagues, co-workers, and friends:**

1. Participating in recreational activities helps accelerate relationship and opportunities to move beyond the surface level.

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<sup>4</sup> Timothy Keller, Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012), 283-284.

2. Utilize major sporting events and invite them over your house to watch the game on TV or go to a theater show.
3. If they have the same interest, invite them to participate in a sports league with you.
4. Invite them to exercise with you regularly. Whether you are going to the gym, running, or taking a walk, it provides excellent opportunities for constant relationship development.
5. Plan a movie night and invite a few families over.
6. Find out what their favorite restaurant is and go out to eat with them.
7. If the person has a skill or interest, ask them sincerely to educate you.

**What can I do if I personally struggle with the above ideas?**

1. Pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit or a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon your life. Read how the disciples lived toward the end of each Gospel and compare it to how the disciples lived in Acts 2-6. The difference was the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
2. Let your Life Group know and ask them to start agreeing with you in prayer and hold you accountable for specific action steps.
3. Use any of the above ideas and invite someone else from your Life Group to join you. For example, invite a few people from your Life Group over and ask a few people who are not Christ-followers yet. Having other believers present can help eliminate unnecessary fear.

## APPENDIX 2

### Hindrances to Receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Here are some potential hindrances to expressing your prayer language.

- Doubt - Not sure it's for me.
  - When you begin to speak in tongues, the devil will likely say, "That's just you speaking!" Well, he's partially right. It is you speaking, but it's the Holy Spirit giving you the ability. So, in essence, it's not "just you" speaking. That's why Paul talked about praying with the Spirit. Again, you do the natural, and the Holy Spirit will do the "super," and together, it's a supernatural transaction.
  - The devil will probably tell you that you are "making it all up," when you begin to speak in supernatural tongues. It's his ploy to get you to stop. Don't stop. Keep praying in those strange-sounding tongues, and you will find a fresh anointing of power come over your life.
  - The devil will probably bring to your mind some of the erroneous teachings you've heard over the years, hoping to destroy your faith. He may suggest, "You are really messing up. This was for the apostles only. You have no promise from God for this. Stop now before judgment falls on you." What? No promise? We have more than a promise; we also have a command to be filled. Jesus told his disciples to receive this miraculous baptism with the Holy Spirit, and Peter assured us that the promise was for us, our children, and those who are afar off (Acts 2:38)
- Fear- I want to but am not sure about it. It's the unknown.
  - Luke 11:11-13 - "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"
  - God has this good gift for you. He Loves You and wants You to experience all of His love, goodness, and power.
- Inadequacy- It couldn't happen to me. I'm not worthy. I don't deserve this gift. It's for others, but it can't be for me. I'm probably not ready.
  - Jesus says no...it's not for those who deserve it but for my children who ask.
  - Waiting for the Holy Spirit to take over-"The Holy Spirit will take you over, and it will be uncontrollable." This statement is not accurate. God will not violate your will. That's why Paul said, "I will pray with the spirit, and I will



pray with my understanding." It is an act of the human will, not something uncontrollable that will put you in a trance or dominate all your motor functions.

- The Holy Spirit doesn't speak in tongues. He gives the ability, but you are the one that speaks. "The Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied" (Acts 19:5). Who spoke in tongues? They did. It was not the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues..." (1 Corinthians 14:18). Who spoke in tongues? Paul did. Again, it was not the Holy Spirit.

## APPENDIX 3

### Alan Hirsch's Scale of Discipleship

APPENDIX #3 Alan Hirsch's Discipleship Model				
m0 - m1	m1 - m2	m2 - m3	m3 - m4	
Those with some concept of Christianity who speak the same language, have similar interests, probably the same nationality, and are from a similar class grouping as you or your church. Most of your friends would probably fit into this bracket.	Here we go to the average non-Christian in our context: a person who has little real awareness of, or interest in, Christianity, but is suspicious about the church (they have heard bad things). These people might be politically correct, socially aware and open to spirituality. This category might also include those previously offended by a bad experience of church or Christians - some call them "bruised fruit" and they are hard to reach. Just go to the average local pub/bar or nightclub to encounter these people.	People in this group probably have no idea about Christianity. Or they might be part of some ethnic group with different religious impulses or some fringe subculture. This category might also include people marginalized by conservative Christianity e.g., the gay community. But m2-m3ers are also likely to describe people actively antagonistic toward Christianity as they understand it. e.g., the new atheists.	This group might be inhabited by ethnic and religious groupings with a bad history of the church e.g. Muslims or Jews. The fact that they are in the West might ameliorate some of the distance, but just about everything else gets in the way of meaningful dialogue. They are highly resistant to the gospel. Or they are people of completely different language, experience, and worldview. Some immigrant/refugee communities fit here.	