

Series on the HOLY SPIRIT PART ONE:

05/9 Come Holy Spirit – I believe in the Holy Spirit & Acts 2.1-21

Welcome:

Take some time to catch up with everyone. Perhaps set a timer and see how many things each person can catch up on in 1 or 2 minutes. Give people a moment to think or even write down a list of bullet points they can refer to.

Worship:

Pray for everyone – perhaps all pray out loud together for the person to the left of you. Then the leader can pray for the session. You may want then to listen to one of these songs and encourage people to take a moment to rest with God and make it a prayer for themselves:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPPMSfCdUng>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDhWLF6MC0c>

Word:

Read Acts 2.1-21

Option 1: Have a go at these questions:

- What do you know about the Holy Spirit from the Old Testament? You may want to look up these verses: Gen 1:2; 2 Samuel 23:1-2; Nehemiah 9:30; Ezekiel 2:2; Ezekiel 11:24-25; Micah 3:8; Zechariah 7:12; Joel 2:28-29.
- When the Jewish people saw Jesus baptised and Spirit in the form of the dove descend on Jesus what would they have understood about that image of the dove? What happens with the dove in the story of Noah and what might it imply about Jesus' ministry?
- What do we learn about the Holy Spirit from Acts 2?
- What does it mean that the Spirit is a councillor?
- Would you like to know the Spirit more?

Option 2: Listen to this excellent overview talk by Pete Hughes: Link: <https://kxc.blubry.net/2017/11/26/the-creed-we-believe-in-the-holy-spirit/> and as you listen give people a grid like this that they can fill in and then discuss at the end: [for a shorter talk start 12mins in!]

What points did you already know?	What did you learn that was new (or haven't been conscious of for a long time)?	In what ways would you like to know more of the Spirit?	What questions do you have?

Witness:

Pray for the Alpha course that is coming up. Think about whether this is something for you this term or if there is someone you can invite.

Pray for all our children and young people starting new terms – that they would grow in their friendship with God.

12/9 Come Holy Spirit – The Person of the Spirit – Acts 13.1-12

Welcome:

What are the characteristics of personality? For example, what distinguishes a person from a robot, animal, mineral or vegetable?

Share a time when someone has made you feel special in some way. What was it about what they did that made you feel valued, alive, loved known etc?

Worship:

You may enjoy worshipping along to this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXRD7rPNvOM>

Word:

The Holy Spirit is not merely an influence or impersonal power/force but a divine Person. At Christ Church we most often study a whole book or part of scripture but in this series, we are looking at the Holy Spirit from many different passages – before answering the questions below take some time to read these verses: Matthew 28.19; John 14.16-17, 26; Acts 5.1-4; 13.1-4; 2 Corinthians 13.14; Ephesians

4.30. As you answer these questions check that your answers are in line with what the bible says:

- Why do we believe the Holy Spirit is a Person not an impersonal power? And why do we believe the Holy Spirit is God?
- What are the attributes of the Holy Spirit's personality?
- How do you think of the Holy Spirit?
- How can we 'hurt' [grieve] the Holy Spirit? What happens if we do?
- How can we please the Holy Spirit? What happens when we do?
- What is meant by the phrase 'fellowship of the Holy Spirit'?
- Read these verses to see how reliant Jesus was on the Holy Spirit (Luke 1.35; Luke 3.22; Luke 4.14; Heb 9.14) how much more do we need to understand and depend upon the Holy Spirit in our lives?

Witness:

What could we do to value the Holy Spirit as a Person? To acknowledge the Spirit and seek the Spirit's help in our witness?

19/9 Come Holy Spirit – The Work of the Spirit –1Corinthians 2.6-16 & John 14.15-17

Welcome:

Share some stories of how you came to faith. Whether you were small and you saw something of God that was attractive through the lives of those around you, you saw Jesus in a dream, have gradually seen faith grow over the years, responded to a message at a meeting – however you came to faith – the bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit was at work.

Worship:

Maybe try something you've not done before – saying Anglican night prayer, reading a Psalm out loud together, giving everyone a different verse to meditate on and then inviting people to share their thoughts, using lectio360 as a group, singing acapella together, or something else...

Word:

Read 1 Cor 2.6-16 & John 14.15-17.

- The Holy Spirit does the following: guides us into truth, baptises us, renews us, lives in us, counsels us, helps us to face trials, helps us to pray, teaches us about sin, leads us, protects us, transforms us, bears gifts and fruit in us, sends us, brings good news. From the verses above, what you know of your bibles and with the help of google if needed – find verses that support each of the ways the Spirit works that are listed above. Take some time on this and make a note of anything that strikes you and talk it through together. Is there something that the Holy Spirit does that you never ask the Holy Spirit for? Is there something you need to say thank you for as you reflect on the way the Holy Spirit is at work?
- The Holy Spirit has worked in the lives of individuals and communities throughout time – what examples do we see in the bible? What examples do we know of in history? What stories do we know from more recent times? Here is one: Blaise Pascal lived in France in the 1600's. He was a thinker, philosopher, and mathematician (the Pascal computer language is named after him). He was also a devout Christian.

After he died those taking care of his body found a sheet of paper sewn inside his shirt which describes his experience of the fire of the Spirit one night –

What he wrote down

"This day of grace 1654; from about half past ten at night, to about half after midnight, [came] Fire...Fire.

"God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob, not of the philosophers and the wise.

"Security, security, feeling, joy, peace. God of Jesus Christ. Thy God shall be my God.

"Forgetfulness of the world and all [except] God. He can be found only in the ways taught in the gospel.

"Greatness of the human soul.

"O righteous Father, the world hath not known Thee, but I have known Thee.

"Joy, joy, joy, tears of joy. I have separated myself from Him.

"My God, why hast Thou forsaken me? ...

"This is life eternal; that they might know Thee the only true God, and Him whom You have sent, Jesus Christ.

"Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ.

"I have separated myself from Him; I have fled, renounced, crucified Him.

"May I never be separated from Him.

"He maintains Himself in me only in the ways taught in the Gospel.

"Renunciation total and sweet.

(Quoted in Lloyd-Jones' "Joy Unspeakable," pp.106f.)

- How does the Holy Spirit glorify Jesus?
- What is the difference between human guilt and spiritual conviction? (John 16.8)
- What assurances does the Holy Spirit give us? (Romans 8.14-16)
- How does the Holy Spirit make us more Christlike?

Witness:

Where would you like to ask the Holy Spirit to be more at work in your life for the benefit of yourself and those around you.

25/9 BIG QUESTION SUNDAY

This week – take some extended time to pray for each person in the group and then choose one of the following options:

Option 1: Discuss the talk people listened to on Sunday.

Option 2: Watch together the talk that most people missed from Sunday.

Option 3: Take this session to go over the habit checker found here: <https://www.cpas.org.uk/sites/default/files/content/Habit%20checker%20-%20Editable.pdf>

03/10 Harvest Sunday

This week we recommend sharing a meal together and spending some time in thanks to God for all that is good – human kindness when we see it, our food, clothing, and shelter etc. You may want to get everyone a jar like this to keep:



and you may want to look at what you learnt from Sunday and what one thing you aim to put into practice.

More Study Notes Coming Up ...

10/10 Come Holy Spirit – Spirit of Power (Miracles & Healing) John 14.12-14 & Acts 3.1-11

17/10 Come Holy Spirit – Keep on being filled with the Spirit Ephesians 5.15-19

24/10 Come Holy Spirit – Gifts of the Spirit a focus on: Prophecy 1 Corinthians 12.1-11

31/10 Come Holy Spirit – Fruits of the Spirit a focus on: Joy Galatians 5.16-26