

Empowered by the Holy Spirit
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, October 29th, 2023



We Are Disciples

FALL 2023 SERMON SERIES
granthamchurch.org/sermons

Grantham Church
BRETHREN IN CHRIST

Sermon Title: Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Scripture Reading: John 14:15-18; Galatians 5:13-25; Ephesians 1:18-21

Sermon Focus: Life as a disciple isn't easy. Following Jesus will take us up mountains and lead us down into valleys. But honestly, that's to be expected. It's important to remember that the Lord never promised us that it would be easy. But he did say that he would be with us. In fact, Jesus said that he gives us the Holy Spirit so that we can receive his divine power to be his disciples and live on mission. In the final message of our series, Pastor David challenges us to live in the Spirit and not out of our flesh.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read John 14:15-18 together. After the group reading, take 2 minutes to read the passage again silently to yourself. Then use the rest of the time to meditate on the passage. What words or phrases rise above the others? What is the Lord saying to you through these words of Jesus? After this time of reflection, share as a group what God is saying to you through the Scriptures.
2. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit as an advocate, counselor, and helper in your walk with Jesus? Reflect on each of the points below. Share how you have you experienced the Spirit at work in these ways in your own journey.

The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin -- John 16:7-8; 2 Cor. 3:3

Changes our heart and desires -- 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Gal. 4:6-7

Gives us words, wisdom, and courage -- Luke 21:15; 1 Cor. 2:10-11

Dwells and fills us with the presence of Jesus -- 1 Cor. 3:16; Eph. 5:18

Protects, reminds, guides, and comforts us -- John 14:17, 26-27

Helps us in our weakness -- Romans 8:26-27; 2 Timothy 2:7, 14

Equips us with gifts to grow the church -- Acts 1:8; 2:4 1 Cor. 12:7-11

Leads us into truth and enables holy living -- John 16:13; Gal. 5:16-25

3. Pastor David began his message with a couple of stories to communicate how the church in America does not rely upon the leading, discernment, and power of the Holy Spirit in our gospel efforts. As the Chinese missionary said in response to what impressed him most about the church in the US, "What they can do without the power of the Holy Spirit." Is this critique accurate? If so, why do you think this is happening? Do you rely upon the Spirit, or more on your own understanding? What about our church? Are we depending on the Spirit?
4. Read Galatians 5:13-25 together. Notice how Paul contrasts the evidence of the flesh at work versus the "fruit" of the Spirit. Remember, Jesus said that you will know a tree by its fruit (Matt. 7:17-20). Certainly, Christians will at times live out of their flesh. But, if we know a tree (a person) by their fruit, then there should be more evidence of the Spirit at work in us than works of the flesh. How is the Lord inviting you to bear more fruit? Look at Paul's list. Where are you lacking?
5. What has the Spirit been saying to you in this series? What is at least one thing you hear him saying and one thing that you can do in response to what you've heard? Share that with the group and close in prayer over these things.