

# **SESSION 5: Focus on the Power of the Holy Spirit**

**Welcome & Review Last Week's Homework/LIFE Starters: 15 minutes**

**Session #5 Teaching: We Need the Power of God's Spirit: 10 minutes**

We need His help to stay encouraged, to love, to exercise self-control, and to make our parenting efforts effective, because we cannot change the hearts of our children. As Paul said, we labor in the strength that God provides, and pray that he would use our effort in our homes to change our children's lives and bring glory to himself. A better parenting paradigm is "**faithfulness-driven**" rather than results-led. Our role as parents is not to "produce" children who exhibit certain behavior criteria, but to be mere instruments in the Holy Spirit's ongoing work in the heart of our children. We highly value and adhere to the wisdom of Proverbs, Deuteronomy, Hebrews, and other child-training passages in the Scriptures and realize only God transforms the hearts of our children. Our first priority then becomes salvation, so the regenerating work of the Spirit can begin, both making the parenting job easier and also pointing toward lasting change. We look for signs of inner heart change rather than focusing primarily on external conformity.

It's time to recognize the Holy Spirit's pre-eminent role in changing hearts reshapes our parenting priorities. Removing the unnecessary weight of producing results helps us see our kids, not as a reflection of who we are, but as a unique creation in the image of the Creator. Instead of pushing our kids to abide by our standards as a way of conforming and producing their own righteousness, we might offer the disciplined life as gracious obedience to the Spirit, who empowers them to live the life of Christ. Consider these 4-ways you can invite the Holy Spirit into your parenting. **First, spend more time in God's Word.** Being in God's Word sets our hearts on Him and His truth so that we know and recognize Him in even the ordinary moments. Second, pray for your children. Pray that their hearts will be softened toward God and you as their parent. Third, pray that you will be aware and listen to the Holy Spirit all day, in all moments. Pray that you will be aware of those little thoughts or pricks in your heart that say this is the moment, this is the person, this is the question or decision. Lastly, teach your children that they are loved more than they can imagine. (By you, but also by God.) As they trust in the love and goodness of God first, they will learn to trust your Spirit-lead parenting decisions, even when they don't agree with them.

Today, I want you to discuss your parenting style and your willingness to insert the Holy Spirit into your parenting.

**Small Group Discussion: 29 minutes**

- Discuss your parenting style. Are you faith-driven or performance driven?
- Have you talked to your children about accepting Christ and being filled with the Holy Spirit?
- Reread the 4-ways to invite the Holy Spirit into your parenting and then discuss how YOU are modeling a reliance on the Holy Spirit in your home and how you might improve that example.

***Small Group Wrap-Up: 10 minutes***

***What were the biggest take-aways and personal commitment from your small group time?***

***Discuss This Week's Homework: 5 minutes***

Focus on the ***LIFE Journaling Method*** and it will give you more insight to embracing spiritual growth!

•Pray about how to infuse the Holy Spirit into your parenting style!

# SESSION #5

## WK. 5 DEVO 1

### **Read John 14:15-31**

*Jesus promises the Holy Spirit, so you don't need to father alone.*

**L=Listen** in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

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**I = Investigate** the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

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**F=Focus** to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

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**E = Engage** God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

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# SESSION #5

## WK. 5 DEVO 2

### **Read Acts 1:1-11**

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Are YOU allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through you, so that your kids see that modeled?*

**L=Listen** in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

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# SESSION #5

## WK. 5 DEVO 3

### **Read 1 John 2:18-27**

*You have an anointing from the Holy One, and it's time to share that anointing with your family.*

**L=Listen** in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

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# SESSION #5

## WK. 5 DEVO 4

### **Read Ephesians 1:3-14**

*We are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise and guarantee of our inheritance.*

**L=Listen** in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

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