

Small Group Discuss on Luke's theme of the Holy Spirit (part 1)

Pray together for starters ...

1. "The Holy Spirit has often been the forgotten member of the Trinity in many evangelical churches — present in doctrine, but absent in emphasis."
— *Gordon D. Fee, Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God*
 - Do you agree or not – discuss?
2. "The Spirit's work is to mediate the presence and power of Christ, not to draw attention to himself. He is the hidden shaper of Christian experience."
— *J.I. Packer, Keep in Step with the Spirit*

Packer famously described the Spirit as the "floodlight ministry" of God — shining the light on Jesus rather than himself. This idea has helped many frame why the Spirit may seem quieter or more backgrounded, even as he is powerfully at work. (Also see John 15:26, 16:14)

 - Does this insight modify your initial comments?
3. In Luke 3:21–22, what do we learn about the Holy Spirit from Jesus' baptism? How is the Spirit described, and what does that tell us?
4. In Luke 4:1 we read that Jesus was led by the Spirit. What is the significance of the Spirit leading Jesus? What does this mean for us?
5. Read Luke 24:45-49. Why did Jesus tell the disciples to hold – wait?
6. How does the HS empower Jesus, the disciples, and us for mission? See Luke 12:11-12
7. Read Acts 1:8, 2:17. In the Old Testament only one person at a time received a Spirit anointing. That changes in the New Testament. How does this change? What does this mean for our mission?

8. Ness' last point was about the Spirit highlighting and inviting us into the love of the Father/Trinity. Read Romans 5:1-5. Scripture often describes the Spirit as the one who *applies* what the Father *plans* and the Son *achieves*. Use this last statement to delineate the ministry of the three persons of the trinity as regards us receiving love

9. Read Luke 11:9-13. Do you ask for the Father to give you the Holy Spirit? Why ought you? Why might we not ask for this gift? Should we ask more frequently? Even now?

Pray together

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Our aim is to celebrate the start of our building a home journey, to give thanks for the generosity God has stirred within our community (we've already raised \$500K!), and to inspire continued support as we work toward completing this significant project.