

**SERIES - OPEN****Week 1 - Open to the God in You****MESSAGE BIG IDEA**

When we are open to the Spirit, we will experience life more and more like Jesus.

**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 2:52, Luke 4:18-19, Matthew 26:39, Genesis 1:1-3, Haggai 2:4-5, John 14:16-17, and Acts 10:34-48

**ICEBREAKER AND OPENING THOUGHT**

These are designed to open the discussion up for the whole group. It's not important that every person answer every question, but use these two to help everyone have a chance to contribute at least once.

**BIBLE DISCUSSION**

Read through the scriptures slowly and let people ask questions. For some of your group members, the idea of the Spirit being present from the beginning and throughout the Old Testament might be a new concept. Allow them to wrestle with that idea and digest the readings.

Let the example of Jesus' life and ministry be encouraging to people that they aren't too late to tap into the Spirit's life-giving power. Just as Jesus, we can grow in Spirit and truth. The third set of readings are aimed at helping us see that the Holy Spirit is alive and well in our lives too!

**LIFE APPLICATION**

Groups of Christians have interpreted some of these questions in different ways over the centuries. Our understanding of the third person of the Trinity has sometimes been plagued with difficulty. It's important to note to our group members that the Holy Spirit is a full member of the Trinity and that the Holy Spirit empowers us to live in amazing ways.

The idea of Spirit-Receptive vs. Spirit-Resistant is designed to help us think about our interior posture toward the Holy Spirit. How often are we inviting the Holy Spirit to change us, empower us, or strengthen us daily? What does it look like for us? How can we support each other in our attempt to live as Christ-followers in lives that are sometimes very hard?

**CHALLENGE**

Commit to praying the Open prayer daily: "God, I am open to your Holy Spirit. Make me ever-aware of your presence dwelling in me. Speak to me, transform me, empower me to be more like Jesus. God, I am open to your Holy Spirit. Amen"