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Hey leaders! We're in week two of our series called "Holy Spirit"! In this series, we'll learn how to walk in step with the Spirit and live with purpose beyond our own ability. The Holy Spirit is God's presence in us—fueling our faith, guiding our steps, and empowering us for His mission. Through the Holy Spirit, we are filled with the power to serve, love, and share the gospel.

Thank you for shepherding a group of people to Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent!

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

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*"The Spirit doesn't just get you started; He reshapes you every day as you cling to the truth."
[Tim Keller]*

LEADER RESOURCES || **Leader Note** *We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!*

- **Passage Summary**
 - In this section, Paul's aim is to help the Corinthians get unstuck in their faith journey by teaching them and reminding them of the reality of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
- **1 Corinthians Ch. 3 Commentary & The Church As God's Temple**
 - Use the commentary and short video for background and encouragement. These would be good resources to share before you gather.
- **Cultivating Attentiveness to God's Presence**
 - This would be a good resource to share with your group after you gather.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || **Leader Note** *The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another's hearts and building joy together.*

What's one summer memory with friends or your church family that always makes you smile when you think about it?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || **Leader Note** *Begin your time together thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, taking a posture of humility and dependence!*

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*"Our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power,
with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction."*

[1 Thessalonians 1:5]

BIG IDEA || Leader Note Read this aloud so your group knows the theme of today's reading and discussion.

When we accept the reality of our relationship with the Holy Spirit and act in faith upon that fact, we'll experience a transformed life in step with God and His purposes.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || Leader Note Have people read aloud the passage as instructed. Your role is to FACILITATE, so keep your group moving along, encourage people to share, and look for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two reminders: 1) Every question does not have to be answered ... go where the Spirit leads! 2) Answers do not have to be read aloud ... they're for guidance!

1. In the sermon we heard, *"The Spirit of truth works where truth is being heralded and heard."* How are you welcoming the Spirit of truth into your life currently? Be specific! *This is a good opportunity to go first!*

Have someone read aloud 1 Corinthians 3:10-17. Ask another person to read it aloud again, possibly in a different translation.

2. According to v. 10–11, what foundation is Paul referring to? Why is it non-negotiable? *The foundation is Jesus Christ. Paul stresses that no other foundation can be laid, emphasizing that everything in the Christian life must be built upon Christ alone—His person, work, and teachings.*
3. Why is it essential for us to understand that the Spirit's indwelling is not just a concept to be learned, but a reality to be lived? *Answers will vary: intellectual belief without lived experience leads to powerless Christianity. Living as though the Spirit is truly present brings hope, holiness, and daily transformation—faith becomes real, not theoretical.*
4. The Holy Spirit is both the builder and the inhabitant. What does this teach us about the Spirit's role in our growth? *Answers will vary: it shows that sanctification is not self-construction. The Spirit builds our lives by renewing us from within, and He does so to dwell intimately with us. Growth is by grace, through surrender.*
5. How should the "temple" metaphor shape the way we view our everyday behaviors and choices as Christians? *Answers will vary: it reframes life in sacred terms. If we are God's temple, then our words, habits, and relationships are holy matters. It's not just about avoiding sin but about living in reverent, Spirit-filled purpose.*
6. What changed when you experienced a moment where you sensed the Spirit dwelling in you in a transformative way? *These moments may include conviction, peace, calling, healing, or clarity. They reshape perspective and draw believers into deeper intimacy and trust with God.*
7. What area(s) of your life reflect "gold and silver" (Spirit-led works)? What area(s) might be more like "wood and straw" (flesh-led efforts)? *Spirit-led works often bear fruit over time (Gal. 5:22–23), while wood/straw efforts tend to be self-promoting, short-lived, or anxiety-producing.*
8. In the sermon we heard, *"The Holy Spirit is willing to be to us as much as we are willing to have of Him."* What would change if you were more willing to allow your body and decisions to be sacred spaces for God's presence? *Answers will vary: it would influence purity, priorities, conversations, and courage. We'd approach life with a sense of awe, stewardship, and kingdom purpose.*
9. How can our small group help each other "act the miracle" of being indwelt by the Spirit? *Answers will vary: by cultivating encouragement, vulnerability, shared obedience, and truth-centered conversation. We remind each other that we are not ordinary people—we are God's dwelling place.*

10. What habits can our group adopt to increase our awareness of the Spirit's presence among us?
Ideas include Spirit-led prayer, quiet reflection, Scripture sharing, testimony time, and collectively practicing spiritual attentiveness rather than just discussion.

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

Every believer, and the church together, is a living temple where God Himself dwells by His Spirit. The Spirit is not a distant force but a present person, transforming us from the inside out. **This identity is both a gift and a call:** to build well, live reverently, and carry the weight of God's presence with joy. The miracle isn't something we chase—it's something we are.

As you consider your next step, here are two questions to reflect on: 1) Am I living more from the flesh or the Spirit in this season of life? 2) Do I see my daily life—habits, words, thoughts—as sacred space?

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question. The possible next steps of faith below are not for discussion, but simply a resource for your group members.

Possible Next Steps of Faith

1. Set aside 5 minutes daily this week to practice “temple awareness”—invite the Spirit to guide your thoughts and decisions.
2. Ask one trusted friend to help you identify one “wood or straw” area in your life and pray with you to build with gold (Spirit-led).

PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note *Be intentional about saving at least 5-7 minutes for prayer at the end of your gathering each week to pray together. **THIS SUMMER, we will share creative and unique ways for your group to pray together.** Give these a try or simply pray for one another's personal requests!*

Step By Step

Today, let's prayerfully reflect on our relationship with the Holy Spirit and express faith-filled surrender to walk with Him in everyday life.

- Begin by reading aloud this reflection to the group: *“The Holy Spirit is not far off—He lives in us. Let's take a moment to acknowledge His presence.”* Pause for 10–15 seconds in silence.
- Invite each person to complete this sentence in prayer: “Holy Spirit, because you live in me, I will take a step of faith in ____.” Encourage the group to keep it brief and heart-level, such as:
 - “... in forgiving someone I've been holding back from.”
 - “... in trusting You instead of controlling everything.”
 - “... in letting go of fear and choosing peace.”
- Invite the group to say this prayer together as a declaration:
 - *“Holy Spirit, you are with us.
We accept your presence and power.
Help us walk in step with you—
not by fear, not by striving, but by faith.
Lead us, transform us, and use us for God's glory.
Amen.”*