



## FUEL sermon series – Week 1 Group Guide

Begin your group time together with a quote, a question, and a recap (10 minutes).

A.W. Tozer once remarked that, "Satan has opposed the doctrine of the Spirit filled life as bitterly as any doctrine there is. He has confused it, opposed it, and surrounded it with false notions and fears. He has blocked every effort of the Church of Christ to receive from the Father the divine and blood bought patrimony. The Church has tragically neglected this great liberating truth that is for now, for the child of God, a full and wonderful and completely satisfying anointing with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit filled life is not a special deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for his people."

What's your background knowledge of the Holy Spirit? Explain.

RECAP: This week, Gary's message focused on obedience to the Holy Spirit for the simple reason that He is God in us. We cannot be filled by Him if we are not obedient to Him. One of the core verses in this sermon was Ephesians 5:18, which is the most direct commandment from God to live lives filled by the Spirit. Referencing this passage, Gary made the point that the degree to which we are filled by God's Spirit is reflective of the degree to which we are surrendered to Him. We have the Spirit (Acts 2:38), but does the Spirit have us?



Read Scripture and discuss the sermon (30 minutes).

*Pick a few of these questions to drive your group's conversation.*

- Describe one aspect of this sermon that either challenged you, you had questions about, or that deepened your faith.
- Why is the Holy Spirit important?
- Do you feel like you're "running on empty" in life? Could that be because you're not filled with the Spirit? Explain.
- If someone were to ask you, "Who is the Holy Spirit?" How would you respond? What Scriptures would you use to explain who the Holy Spirit is?
- Read the following Scriptures and discuss how they inform you would answer the previous question: **John 14:16-18, 26; Exodus 31:1-2; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 8:26-27; Titus 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; Galatians 5:16-18; Galatians 5:19-26; John 16:8.**
- According to Gary, when is the normative time we receive the Holy Spirit (**see Acts 2:26-28 and Romans 6:1-4**)? How does this reality potentially impact your relationship with God?
- In his message, Gary quoted **Ephesians 5:18**. Read that passage and discuss what it means for this verse to be a continual command. What does that mean for your life? What would it mean for you to allow the Holy Spirit to have control of your life?
- What does "being filled with the Spirit" have to do with following the Lord? How has disobedience affected your openness to be "full of the Holy Spirit?"
- Are there any ways in which you are not following Jesus now that are keeping you from being "full of the Holy Spirit?" Explain.



**Break out individually for reflection and prayer time (15 minutes).**

1. Reflect on the ways in which you may or may not be following the Lord. How might this be affecting your ability to be “full of the Holy Spirit?”
2. What residual questions do you have about the Holy Spirit?
3. Using **Ephesians 5:18**, pray for God’s Spirit to fill you.

**Come back together as a large group and finish with prayer (10 minutes).**

How did the Lord speak to you in your reflection and prayer time?

Once you’ve finished discussing, take turns sharing prayer requests. End your group time with prayer out loud for one another.

**Access extra resources throughout this sermon series by visiting [thecreek.org/devotionals](http://thecreek.org/devotionals). You’ll find:**

- Answers to some frequently asked questions about the Holy Spirit.
- Weekly spiritual practices that correlate with Sunday’s message.