

Foundations: *Holy Spirit Study Guide*  
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Session One

GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT

# FOUNDATIONS THE HOLY SPIRIT

## LOOKING AHEAD

1. What do you hope to get out of this small group study?

2. What image comes to mind when you think of the Holy Spirit? Scripture tells us that when we accept Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside us, yet he is probably the most difficult person of the Trinity to understand. Our ideas about the Holy Spirit may be influenced by many factors, such as upbringing, media, or personal experiences.

Spend a few minutes describing your present concept of the Holy Spirit.

### Key Verse

*... let the Holy Spirit fill and control you.*

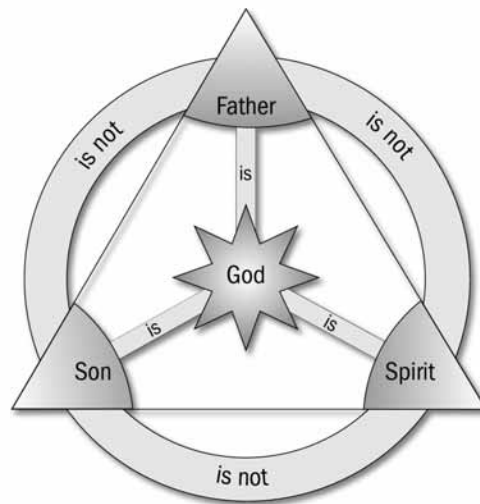
Ephesians 5:18b (NLT)

# GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT



## BIBLE TEACHING

Watch the video lesson now and take notes in your outline on pages 3-5.



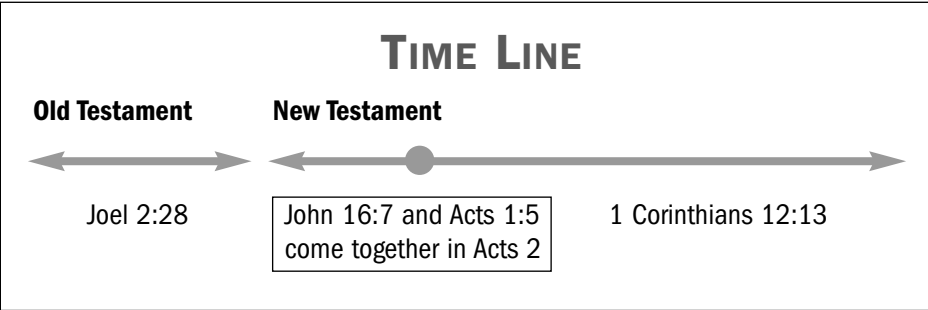
## TRUTHS ABOUT THE TRINITY

1. God relates to us as a Trinity, three persons in one being.
2. God is one; he is not three Gods, but one God (Deuteronomy 6:4).
3. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Spirit is God.
4. The three are distinct from one another: separate, but one.

# FOUNDATIONS THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Historical Background

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit came upon people at \_\_\_\_\_ times for \_\_\_\_\_ purposes. He never indwelt anyone \_\_\_\_\_.



*“For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:5 NIV)*

*For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. (1 Corinthians 12:13 NIV)*

- Do we have to have an \_\_\_\_\_ to be filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit? No.

## GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT

### What Is the Role of the Holy Spirit Today?

**The Holy Spirit** \_\_\_\_\_ **me.**

- Definition: To give \_\_\_\_\_.

*He saved us. It was not because of any good deeds that we ourselves had done, but because of his own mercy that he saved us, through the Holy Spirit, who gives us new birth and new life by washing us. (Titus 3:5 TEV)*

- Before I came to Christ, I was \_\_\_\_\_.
- Now I am \_\_\_\_\_ through the new birth.

*“What gives life is God’s Spirit; human power is of no use at all. The words I have spoken to you bring God’s life-giving Spirit.” (John 6:63 TEV)*

### DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. How has the teaching you heard in this session helped you better understand the reality of the Holy Spirit? Has it helped you see him as God himself, rather than as a force or emotion of God? What difference does this truth make to you personally?

## FOUNDATIONS THE HOLY SPIRIT

2. Look again at John 3:1-16. Why do you think it was so difficult for a religious man such as Nicodemus to understand spiritual rebirth? How do Jesus' words to him help you grasp what it means to be born of the Spirit?

Sometimes our religion keeps us from seeing what is truly spiritual. Religion has been called "man's attempt to reach to God." When our relationship with God is shielded by man-made rules and traditions, it is difficult to see what the Spirit is doing. Jesus encouraged Nicodemus to return to the simple truths, beginning with birth. He wants us all to realize that Christianity is God reaching out to man.

**Did You Get It?** How has this week's study helped you to see God's Spirit as a person with whom you have a relationship?

**Share with Someone:** Think of a person you can encourage with the truth you learned this week. Write their name in the space below.

# GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT

## LIVING ON PURPOSE

### *Worship*

During your personal prayer times this week, focus on thanking God for the good things he has done in your life. It's all too easy to focus on how far we have to go in our growth as believers. We need to balance that out by focusing on how far we have come. You are not yet all you should be as a Christian, but you are also not what you used to be!

Pay close attention this week to the Holy Spirit's work in you. Be ready to share any special insights with the group next time.

## PRAYER DIRECTION

Read together Psalm 51:10–12. Now, as a group, spend some time in prayer thanking God the Holy Spirit for his work in your life. Along with David, thank God for the Holy Spirit's presence in your life, making you a new creation. Let gratitude guide your prayers.

foundations THE HOLY SPIRIT

**NOTES**