

LIVING BY THE HOLY SPIRIT



**LORRAINE
HILL**

Leader's Guide

Introduction

Welcome!

I am so excited that you have decided to lead the *Living by the Holy Spirit* Bible study. This study is designed to help participants experience the Holy Spirit and to better understand His role in our lives.

By stepping into this role, you are allowing God to use you to guide others deeper into His Word. This is an amazing opportunity to make a lasting impact on people's lives and their walk with Christ. I can't wait to hear how God will work through His Word to transform and bless your group. Thank you for your willingness to serve in this meaningful way!

This Leader's Guide is designed to assist you in facilitating this study by offering administrative details and general guidance. These are merely suggestions because each of you has the magnificent Holy Spirit within you, who is far more capable of equipping you for this role than I could ever be. The Holy Spirit not only empowers you but also understands the unique needs of each participant in your group. I encourage you to trust and follow His direction as you lead.

Thank you once again for stepping up to lead this study. I'm excited to hear about the amazing things God does through your group! And if we don't get the chance to share those stories in this lifetime, we'll have all of eternity to catch up!

Lorraine Hill

Overview of the Study

The *Living by the Holy Spirit* study is a seven-week, in-depth Bible study designed to help participants better understand the Holy Spirit – His person, His work, and His role in our lives. Each week includes five days of daily homework, with an estimated completion time of about 20-30 minutes per day. The homework features a variety of question types, including fill-in-the-blank, multiple-choice, yes/no, and matching. These exercises encourage participants to engage with the material and apply it to their personal lives. Additionally, Challenge questions are provided for those who wish to dive deeper into God's Word.

Small Groups

Small group discussion is an important part of this study because it allows individuals the opportunity to share what God has revealed to them through the study and ask questions of other believers to increase in their own understanding. It also creates community and builds fellowship, which is important within the body of Christ. Participants can listen, encourage and pray for one another. It is amazing how God often places people who need each other in the same groups so that they can minister to one another during the study.

Suggestions for Small Groups

- **Facilitate the discussion every week.** As you do the study every week, mark questions that are especially meaningful to you. Select a few key questions from each day to discuss. You will not have time to discuss all the questions. There are also suggested discussion questions listed in this Leaders Guide. If you are asking questions but receiving little response, then try asking a more general question, like “What spoke to you most in this day/week?” or “What unique insight did you receive from this day/week?” General questions seem to elicit discussion. You may also want to setup the chairs in a circle or semi-circle as this is welcoming to participants and makes them feel more comfortable sharing. Though it can be hard, try to also remain on target in your discussion and cover the respective week’s homework. This ensures that participants who have done the homework have the opportunity to share what they have learned. If the conversation has strayed, then gently steer it back.
- **Avoid the temptation to always fill the silence.** Most of us are uncomfortable with silence and so we tend to quickly offer an answer if no one says anything. But sometimes more reserved people need a little more time to open up. The silence can sometimes be the little nudge that they need.
- **Take prayer requests and communicate them to the rest of the group.** Try to limit prayer time to about 10 minutes. You do not want to quench the Holy Spirit, but you also want to give people who have done the homework adequate time to share what they have learned. Encourage your group members to pray for each other. Satan wants nothing more than to distract and discourage us, so we need to remain diligent and pray for each other. As the facilitator, I encourage you to be especially diligent in prayer on the day of the study. For a twist, you could pair group members as accountability partners.
- **Encourage the participants.** Parts of this study are encouraging, but other parts are challenging, similar to anytime when we read God’s Word. Please encourage your group members to remain committed to the study and stay in the Word. God has amazing things to reveal to us, but we have to have an open and teachable spirit.

We have found the most effective size for small groups seems to be around 12-15 people.

A group of more than 15 people tends to not allow each individual the opportunity to share.

But let the
HOLY SPIRIT
be your guide.

Small Groups

- **Follow up on participants who have missed.** Once participants miss Bible study, it is easier for them to give up and not return, especially if they have not done the homework. The nice thing about this study is that each week covers a different topic. So, if participants miss a week or fall behind, they can always start fresh the next week. Hopefully, that will encourage those who miss to remain in the study.
- **Enlist a “strong” sub for each facilitator,** someone who is able to lead in the absence of the facilitator and who regularly completes their homework. Inevitably most facilitators become sick or have unexpected emergencies and have to miss. A “strong” sub provides stability for the group since the rest of the group is already comfortable with her. It also provides another participant who can contribute to the discussion.
- **End on time.** As participants feel more comfortable, they will share more. Sometimes, this creates a challenge and small group time tends to run over. Try to end on time, especially if childcare is involved. You can always speak to someone privately if they are excited about sharing something but this allows the rest of the group the freedom to leave on time without feeling awkward. Groups that continually run over often lose members that have other commitments.

REMAIN ENCOURAGED

- As you facilitate or lead this study, Satan would like nothing better than to discourage and dishearten you and he will use any means possible. Don't let him. God's power is greater than anything Satan throws at you.
- When I first started teaching and leading, I became disappointed with attrition in my studies. We would start so strong and then lose women and Satan used it mercilessly to discourage me. Instead of viewing the glass half-empty, I needed to view it half-full. Maybe ten or twenty percent of the people gave up on the study, but that meant that eighty percent completed it. Eighty percent were now deeper in God's Word. Eighty percent now had a better understanding of the Holy Spirit. And that was amazing! Not to mention that several people later told me that even though they had dropped out of the study, they had still completed it. We never know what God is doing and so we must not use earthly eyes (like I did).
- There are many ways of leading this study. Everything listed above are only suggestions. Again, the most important thing is that you are open to the Holy Spirit's leading and allow Him to guide you. God has hand-crafted us all as unique people and so we each have our own unique and creative ways of leading.

If you have any **creative suggestions**, please share them with us. Or if any of your group members would like to share what they have learned, we would **LOVE** to hear!! It is always exciting to hear how the Lord is working in other people's lives. Email us at Info@LorraineHillMinistries.com.

WEEK 1: Empowered by the Spirit

Day 1 – An Amazing Gift

KEY THOUGHT

The Holy Spirit, God Himself, now lives and dwells in believers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How much do you know about the Holy Spirit?
- Name two people you know who are Spirit-filled. What stands out about them?
- What is the best gift that you have ever received other than salvation?
- What do you learn about the Spirit in John 14:16-18?

Day 2 – A Spectacular Entrance

KEY THOUGHT

The Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost in a spectacular way with rushing winds, tongues of fire, and believers being filled with the Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Describe the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:1-4.
- Have you ever been with a group of believers where it was clear that the Spirit was present and moving? Explain.
- What happened in Acts 2:5-13?

Day 3 – Power Beyond Imagination

KEY THOUGHT

The Holy Spirit brings unimaginable power in our lives. We need to stop depending on ourselves and our resources and depend on Him instead.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When the Holy Spirit came upon people, what would they receive?
- What are your thoughts on A. W. Tozer's quote?
- What encouragement do you find in Ephesians 3:20-21?
- Describe something that the Spirit has done through you or someone else that you could never have imagined.

Day 4 – Power to Proclaim Christ

KEY THOUGHT

The Spirit provides the power we need to share Christ, including providing the very words we need.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Are you regularly sharing the gospel? If not, what is holding you back?
- What surprises you about the Acts 4 passage with Peter and John?
- What encouragement do you find in Romans 10:14-15 and Matthew 10:19-20?

Day 5 – Understanding the Spirit

KEY THOUGHT

It is important to understand who the Holy Spirit is because our beliefs shape our actions and influence how we live out our faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do Acts 5:3-4 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 reveal that the Spirit is divine?
- What are some of the attributes of the Holy Spirit?
- What Scriptures reveal the Spirit is a person and not a force?
- What are some of the symbols of the Spirit in Scripture?

WEEK 2: *An Amazing Teacher*

Day 1 – The Spirit of Truth

KEY THOUGHT

The Holy Spirit will illuminate Scripture to believers, explaining it and then applying it to our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you learn about Scripture from 2 Peter 1:20-21 and 2 Timothy 3:16?
- What 2 things will the Spirit do (John 14:25-26)?
- What do you learn from 1 Corinthians 2:9-16
- List one life changing truth that the Holy Spirit has revealed to you.

Day 2 – Combatting the Lies

KEY THOUGHT

There is a great battle being waged over truth, so it is important that believers be rooted in truth or they will fall for the lies of Satan.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What sources of truth do you listen to?
- What do you learn from John 16:12-15?
- How is Satan described (John 8:44, Revelation 12:9)?
- What are some of the common lies and deceptions of the world. Share your answers to the exercise.

Day 3 – A Teachable Spirit

KEY THOUGHT

To grow and mature, we must accept all truth that the Spirit reveals, not just the truths that we like.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share a time when the Spirit taught you something that you did not like.
- What was Israel's attitude toward truth in Isaiah 30:9-11?
- Read John 8:31-32. How can refusing to accept truth keep us in bondage?
- According to Proverbs 19:20, what 2 things must we do to become wise?

Day 4 – Developing Discernment

KEY THOUGHT

Discernment is the ability to distinguish between truth and error, right and wrong.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why is discernment important for believers?
- What keeps you from exercising full discernment?
- For what did King Solomon ask? For what would you have asked?
- What do you learn about the Bereans in Acts 17:10-11?

Day 5 – Grounded in the Word

KEY THOUGHT

Since the Spirit teaches us through the Word, it is vital that we spend time in it regularly and learn it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How is God's Word described in Psalm 119:103, 111, and 127?
- To what is God's Word compared in Amos 7:7-8?
- Share a time when God's Word encouraged you, provided wisdom, or rebuked you.
- What are some creative ways to memorize Scripture?

WEEK 3: Gifted to Serve

Thank you
for caring for God's flock
and encouraging them in the
Word! I know it requires a
tremendous amount of time
and commitment on your part,
but I am so thankful for your
willingness. May the Lord bless
you and your group!

Day 1 – Discovering Our Spiritual Gifts

KEY THOUGHT

Every believer receives a spiritual gift(s) so that he or she can edify and build up the body of Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do all believers have a spiritual gift?
- How would you explain spiritual gifts to someone?
- What are your spiritual gifts?
- Share an instance where several believers used their different spiritual gifts.

Day 2 – One Body, Many Parts

KEY THOUGHT

Believers must act in unity and use their gifts jointly to bring glory to God and advance His kingdom.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you learn about spiritual gifts from 1 Corinthians 12:12-26?
- Why is diversity important in the body of Christ?
- What part of the body do you think you are?
- How does Paul stress the importance of love when using the gifts?

Day 3 – Stewarding Our Gifts

KEY THOUGHT

We must steward the spiritual gifts that we have been given, while being careful not to self-righteously judge others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How would you define a steward?
- What do you learn from 1 Peter 4:10?
- Why should we not judge someone else in our area of gifting?
- Share a time when you or someone you know used their gift to encourage and strengthen the body.

Day 4 – Unity Not Uniformity

KEY THOUGHT

We must seek to preserve the unity that the Spirit created in the body of Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you learn from Ephesians 4:3?
- How does Ephesians 4:4-6 emphasize unity. List all the “ones.”
- Do you find it challenging to accept believers who are different from you?
- How can we preserve unity in the body without expecting uniformity from others?

Day 5 – Valuing Christian Community

KEY THOUGHT

Community is vital for Christians because it provides much needed encouragement, strength and accountability.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you learn about the early church in Acts 2:42-47?
- What level of community are you experiencing?
- How can community help in everyday living, trials, and struggles with sin?
- Which “one another” statement did you put into practice?

WEEK 4: *An Exciting Adventure*

Day 1 – Led by the Spirit

KEY THOUGHT

The Holy Spirit guides and leads believers in their everyday lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you think that God cares about the decisions that you make?
- What do you learn from Romans 8:14 about the Spirit's leading?
- How did the Spirit lead the early church?
- What is an area where you currently need God's guidance?

Day 2 – Spirit-Led Living

KEY THOUGHT

Spirit-led living is a life of joy and peace as we bring glory to God and advance His kingdom.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How has the Spirit worked in your life recently?
- What do you learn from John 10:10 and 2 Corinthians 3:17?
- Are you clear on God's will for your life?
- Which example of Spirit-led living spoke to you the most?

Day 3 – Following Uncomfortable Paths

KEY THOUGHT

Sometimes, the Spirit guides us into challenging situations that stretch our faith and deepen our dependence on God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is something challenging that you have done in your Christian walk?
- Where did the Spirit lead Jesus in Luke 4:1-2?
- Are you open to the Spirit's leading? Is anything holding you back?
- What did you learn from the Challenge question?

Day 4 – The Lonely Road

KEY THOUGHT

Because the Spirit now indwells believers, we never need to feel lonely or alone.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you ever find Christianity to be lonely?
- What strikes you most about Elijah (1 Kings 19)?
- Share a time when you experienced loneliness in your Christian walk.
- What encouragement do you receive from Hebrews 13:5?

Day 5 – Embracing the Unexpected

KEY THOUGHT

In our walk of faith, we have to be willing to trust the Spirit's leading, even into the unknown.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do you feel about the unknown? Are you open to the Spirit's leading?
- What scares you about surrendering full control of your life to God?
- What do you learn about Abram's journey in Genesis 12?
- If you were Abram, how would you have responded?

WEEK 5: *Experiencing New Life*

Day 1 – The Giver of Life

KEY THOUGHT

If we do not exhibit patience and control our anger, we will end up leaving a bitter legacy.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Are you easily angered? What are some consequences of anger?
- Discuss the passage on Cain and Abel (Genesis 4).
- How has your upbringing impacted the way you deal with anger?
- How has Satan targeted your family, causing anger and division?

Day 2 – Finding Freedom in Repentance

KEY THOUGHT

Righteous anger occurs when we are zealous for God, His laws, His cause, or for righteousness, and it is allowed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you learn about Jesus in the Temple in John 2:13-17?
- What is the difference between righteous and unrighteous anger?
- If we do not deal with our anger constructively, what do we give the devil?
- Is there anyone that you are currently angry with? How can you resolve the situation and not give the devil a foothold?

Day 3 – New Life in the Spirit

KEY THOUGHT

The heart matters because murder starts with a spark of anger, and it starts in the heart.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do Matthew 5:21-24 and 1 John 3:15 reveal the seriousness of anger?
- Why does the heart matter when it comes to anger?
- What do Proverbs 18:21, 21:23 and 29:20 say about our speech?
- As Jesus endured His persecution and trials before going to the cross, how did He respond?

Day 4 – An Unbreakable Seal

KEY THOUGHT

Instead of becoming angry over minor issues, we need to extend mercy and overlook offenses.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When you become angry, how do you normally respond?
- How do you deal with minor offenses or when someone says something that hurts your feelings?
- What does Matthew 5:7 reveal about mercy?
- Share an example of how God has been merciful with you in the last few weeks.

Day 5 – Prayer Warrior Extraordinaire

KEY THOUGHT

God has called us to pursue peace with others and be peacemakers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you learn from 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 and Matthew 18:21-22?
- Why is it so hard to love and forgive others? What has helped you?
- What do Matthew 5:9 and Romans 12:18 say?
- How can you be a peacemaker?

WEEK 6: Sanctified by the Spirit

Can you believe that we are almost done with the study? Hopefully, God has enabled your group to better understand the nature of peace. If some of your members seem to fall back into their old habits, you may want to gently remind them that God did not redeem us because we were a perfect people, but because we were a sinful people. We will make mistakes and we will fail at times. Thankfully God's grace carries us!

Day 1 – Transformed from Glory to Glory

KEY THOUGHT

Sanctification means that believers are set apart and made more holy over time, becoming conformed to Christ

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are some changes you have experienced since being saved?
- How is your sanctification impacted by the time you spend in the Word?
- What do you learn from Philippians 2:12-13?
- How do believers cooperate in sanctification?

Day 2 – Growing in Christlikeness

KEY THOUGHT

Sanctification involves believers growing in Christlike character, such as the fruit of the Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Which fruit did you select from the Exercise and what did you learn?
- Is the fruit normal or supernatural? Explain.
- What do you think of Francis Chan's quote?
- Do you rely on yourself or the Spirit to produce the fruit of the Spirit in you? How can it be discouraging if we rely on ourselves?

Day 3 – Bearing Much Fruit

KEY THOUGHT

As we abide in the Spirit, God grows fruit in us. At times, He may need to prune believers so that we can produce more fruit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the point of the John 15 passage?
- How would you describe your level of fruit bearing?
- What happens to Christians so that we can bear more fruit (John 15:2)?
- Share a time when God pruned you. What happened? Did you feel his love?

Day 4 – Sanctified through Suffering

KEY THOUGHT

God often sanctifies believers through suffering because ease and comfort do not usually grow our character.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In what areas is God currently sanctifying you?
- Who is one of your favorite biblical figures who endured suffering? What encourages you about him/her?
- How did you apply Romans 5:3-5 to a trial you have experienced?
- How can we have joy during trials?

Day 5 – Refined like Silver

KEY THOUGHT

Trials and suffering remove our impurities and refine us, enabling us to become more like Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you learn from Malachi 3:2-3?
- What verses on suffering spoke to you the most?
- What do you learn about idols from Psalm 135:15-18?
- How does God use suffering to remove idols from our lives?

WEEK 7: *Overcoming Sin*

Day 1 – Walking by the Spirit

KEY THOUGHT

There is a constant struggle between the flesh and the Spirit. When we walk by the Spirit, we will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you learn about the struggle between the Spirit and the flesh from Romans 7:14-25? Do you ever feel like this? Explain.
- What areas did you complete from the Exercise?
- What do you learn from 1 Corinthians 6:19-20?

Day 2 – Stuck in Sin

KEY THOUGHT

In our battle against the flesh, we cannot be passive. We need to pray, read the Word, and deny the flesh.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Did you think it would be hard to overcome sin? Explain.
- What do you learn from Romans 6:11-14 and Romans 8:13?
- Describe one of your sin struggles and what you have learned.
- What do you think of John Owen's quote about killing sin (p. 197)?

Day 3 – Placing Guards

KEY THOUGHT

We need to proactively place guards in our lives in areas where we are susceptible to the flesh.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do your daily choices encourage the Flesh or the Spirit?
- Do you think we would sin or flirt with sin less if we feared God more?
- What do you learn from Hebrews 3:13?
- What does Galatians 6:1-2 say about helping other believers?

Day 4 – Loving God Passionately

KEY THOUGHT

Loving God is the key to our Christian walk, holiness, and overcoming the sin in our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why is loving God so important to our Christian walks? What happens when we allow our love for God to wane?
- What is one thing you can do to love God more this week?
- According to Matthew 12:34, our outward actions and speech are the result of what?
- What does Proverbs 4:23 say about the heart? Why does this matter?

Day 5 – Filled with the Spirit

KEY THOUGHT

Being filled with the Spirit means allowing the Holy Spirit to fully control us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you learn from Ephesians 5:18-21?
- What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?
- Ephesians 4:30 tells us to not do what to the Spirit?
- What is the difference between grieving and quenching?

Notes