



ENTER God's presence

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. – John 14:26

Spirit of God, open our hearts and minds and teach us as we gather together to learn more of the truth of your word. May it take root in us and transform us continually to bear more of the likeness of Christ in our lives. Amen



SHARE life together

1. Where have you seen God's power at work in your life this last week?
2. Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?
3. What thoughts does the name 'Holy Spirit' bring to mind for you?

Everything we set our hand to gets old. Working from home and home-schooling was a new adventure to begin with but now has become draining. The social isolation measures are no longer fun. The endless Zoom meetings have lost their appeal. The TikTok videos of people fooling around in lockdown or the watching of countless films has started to grow wearisome. Everything new becomes old. Fad after fad, challenge after challenge leaves us thirsty and wanting more, as the epidemic of boredom and routine sets in. To those caught in this cycle, who keep finding themselves back where they started with no meaning, no power, no life, Jesus offers an invitation to come to him and receive the life. It's a life that never gets old, renewing, restoring, revitalised and recreating day after day, satisfying your heart and empowering you to move together in the Spirit to bring his life-transforming grace to the world.

Week beginning:
Sunday 31st May 2020

Worship series:
MOVE TOGETHER
In the Spirit (#7 in series)



VERSE for the week

"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."

John 7:37b-38



REMEMBER this week

Jesus did not promise just a trickle or a stream...he promised a river. The Holy Spirit is like a mighty rushing river in us...that strengthens, gifts and sends us out into a dangerous world together to be a powerful force; bringing God's life, God's grace and forgiveness and God's empowering Spirit to all who are thirsty.



LISTEN attentively

Read John 7:37-44

4. What key words/thoughts/ideas/questions arise for you as you hear this text?
5. What do you hear this scripture saying to you right now?
6. Jesus speaks about the Holy Spirit as a river of living water flowing out from the believer. How does the Holy Spirit flow out of your life?

Water is essential for staying hydrated. Other things might quench a thirst - fruit juice, coffee, softdrink or a wine or beer, but the additives of these beverages, sugar, caffeine, and alcohol all inhibit the rehydration of your body. You may not feel thirsty anymore, but go to long without drinking some pure water and your internal health begins to suffer.



GROW deeper

Jesus begins this talk about living water by inviting those who are thirsty to come to him and to drink.

7. What parts of your life feel dehydrated at the moment? Where do you need to accept Jesus' offer to come and drink more living water?
8. What other substitutes or additives have you used to try to quench the spiritual or emotional thirsts that exist in your life?

Water has many properties, it can be a solid, liquid or a gas, it can support life but can also erode landscapes and wear down rocks and cliffs, it can be a refreshing shower or a torrential and destructive downpour. At different times, scripture uses different analogies to describe Holy Spirit, fire and wind are commonly used as well as water to describe the nature and work of Holy Spirit.

9. Which of these three images do you find most helpful when thinking about the Holy Spirit? What specific characteristics of water do you associate with the work and person of the Holy Spirit.

One thing that is important to remember about the Holy Spirit, is that it is not just a thing. The language we use when we talk about the Holy Spirit can lead us to think it is something that God gives or takes away. The Holy Spirit is so much more than that. It is a person, the third person of the Trinity. It is God himself. And it is God whom we thirst for. Genesis 1 tells us that God created Adam and Eve in his own image or likeness, this enabled us to enjoy relationship with God. It is this relationship which is missing from our fallen human existence and it is this that we thirst for. The Holy Spirit is a gift from God but it is also the gift of God as he makes himself present and available to us in the Holy Spirit.

10. What, if anything, changes for you when you consider the Holy Spirit as a person rather than a thing?



LIVE purposefully

11. Spend some time developing your 'answer' for the faith you have in Jesus. What would you say if someone asked you why you are a Christian? Share it with the group?
12. Comparison works both ways, we can compare ourselves with those who have things 'better' than us and make ourselves jealous, or we can compare ourselves with those who have less and end up more thankful for what we have. As a group, or in your own time at

home, spend some time compiling a list of things God has blessed you with and thank him for what he has given you.



PRAY intentionally

- Praise God for the positive direction of Australia's efforts against Coronavirus and for the relatively small number of deaths we have experienced here from the virus. Ask that he would continue to guide us and our leaders through this difficult time.
- Ask God to protect those who show their love for others by putting their own health and safety on the line, our teachers, healthcare workers, emergency service workers and defence force personnel.
- Pray for those who have lost loved ones to Coronavirus or through any other means. Ask that they would receive comfort and a deep knowledge of God's grace at this time.
- Thank God for all his good gifts. Ask for a thankful heart even when things look difficult or unfair.



BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross in the air as you say...

[Name], the Holy Spirit lives in you. Amen