

EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT

*A practical course to help you
connect with the Spirit*



Issachar
Glorifying God by making Him Known

Session 1	<p>DAY 1 - Baptism in the Spirit</p> <p>What is God doing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding God's cosmic plan How do I fit into the big story? 	<p>DAY 2 - Sharing the gospel</p> <p>What is the gospel?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The declaration of the kingship of Christ The call to surrender 	<p>DAY 3 - Walking with the Spirit</p> <p>Building a life in the Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual disciplines - prayer Hearing God's voice Obedience to his voice
Session 2	<p>How God empowers people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Getting to know the Holy Spirit How do I receive the Spirit? What should I expect? 	<p>Good tools to help share the gospel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple presentations Testimony Leading someone to Christ 	<p>The transforming power of the Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identity Fruitfulness
Session 3	<p>The gifts of the Holy Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview Why are they given? How to use them 	<p>Spirit empowered evangelism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treasure hunting Healing & deliverance 	<p>Serving others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal prophecy Dealing with strongholds Equipping others to serve
Session 4	<p>Practical session on how to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Getting baptised in the Spirit Speaking in tongues Prophecy Words of knowledge Healing 	<p>Practical session on the streets</p>	<p>Practical session praying for one another followed by evangelism on the street</p>
Session 5	<p>Feedback</p>	<p>Feedback</p>	<p>Feedback</p>

DAY 1 - UNDERSTANDING THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT

Introduction

What is your understanding or what have you believed about the Holy Spirit?

Explain to participants that the bible has a **BIG STORY** from beginning to end, and every **LITTLE STORY** should fit into the big story.

SESSION 1 – THE BIG STORY

Creation – What do we learn about the Spirit here?

Genesis 1: 1-3

Fall - How did the fall affect the plan of God in Eden?

Genesis 3: 8-24

Israel – When and how did Israel experience the Spirit of God? Joseph, Genesis 41: 37-38, Joel 2:28-29, Jeremiah 31:31

Jesus – What did Jesus teach about the Spirit?

John 14: 15-31, Acts 1:8

New Creation - What role does the Spirit play in you now?

Matthew 28: 16-20, 1 Corinthians 6:19, 2 Corinthians 1:22

Drive home this truth home encompassing the idea of the BIG STORY:

- The Spirit is hovering over the waters and brings order
- God breathes his **RUACH** (breathe, energy, power) into Adam. Adam unfortunately sins and his relationship with God is messed up
- Joseph is the first person after the fall who we see filled with the Spirit
- Jesus arrives and is empowered by the Spirit and sets forth his ministry. Jesus is showing humanity a new way of living with the Spirit
- The Spirit now lives in believers, gives us authority, leads us into the fullness of all God has in store, we represent our King on planet earth

Facilitators Notes

Ensure that the relating of the **BIG STORY** is understood as this could be a major shift from how people are used to reading the bible.

Israel carried the promises but they also carried the curse. They demonstrate the best humanity can do without God's power in them.

Use this as your opportunity to help people understand how the **BIG** story is key in each subject we approach, in this case the Holy Spirit.

SESSION 2 – HOW GOD EMPOWERS PEOPLE

In your groups can a few of us share how people are empowered by the Spirit?

Read Ephesians 3: 14-19 (Identify at least 4 things the spirit does?) Identity, Strength, Newness of life/walk and experiencing the fullness of God

How did people know they were filled with the Holy Spirit?

- Acts 2: 1-4 (Supernatural tongues and witness)
Is tongues the only evidence?
- Acts 4:31 (Boldness and witness)
- Acts 9:17 – 20 (Experience – things happened with Paul)
- Galatians 4:6 (Identity and assurance)
- Acts 1:8 (Power and witness)

As you read this what was the common word that kept coming through?

WITNESS

What does that mean for us today? We all called to be witnesses of Jesus.

In groups get a few to share their experience on receiving the Spirit. What was evident in their life at that moment? Example boldness

Optional: share your own personal story with group

Facilitators Notes

In this session we move from theory to practicality – the working of the Spirit.

Beware that this could be a long debate regarding **TONGUES** because of previous views.

The popular view today is that it's only the pastor, leaders and evangelist who witness.

I normally share my own experience here.

SESSION 3 – THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

What is the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit?

“The purpose of the spiritual gifts is to **edify (build up), exhort (encourage), and comfort the church**”.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

A) TONGUES

The gift of speaking in an unknown language

- Acts 2:4 (referring to the gift of speaking another language)
- Acts 10: 44-48 (referring to the gift of tongues)

What is the purpose of tongues?

- 1 Corinthians 14:2 (communication with God)
- 1 Corinthians 14:14 (praying in the Spirit)

What about interpretation of tongues?

Gift to translate a tongue that has been given

- 1 Corinthians 14:5 (strengthening the church)
- 1 Corinthians 14:13 (praying for the ability to interpret)

What is the sad reality we see in the church today regarding this gift?

- People using it to look powerful
- Using the gift for self-glorification
- For entertainment
- 1 Corinthians 14: 23-25

B) PROPHECY

The gift to communicate a message from God that brings strength, encouragement or comfort to others.

What is prophecy for?

- 1 Corinthians 13:2 (revelation)
- 1 Corinthians 14:4 - 6 (strengthening the church)

How do you know this word is from God?

1 Thessalonians 5: 20-21, 1 John 4:1

Facilitators Notes

Provide an overview of the gifts of the Spirit, why they given and how to use them that brings glory to God. Emphasize that **LOVE** is the key.

Get groups to discuss this and get one representative to present findings. You can give each group a scripture and get them to answer the question.

Before you give answers to this get participants to share first.

Allow groups again to answer the questions whilst discovering for themselves through bible reading.

Give us some examples of how you would test it's a word from God?

Questions to probably ask:

- Where has it come from? God, my own thoughts, evil spirit
- Is it in line with scripture
- Does it strengthen, encourage, comfort?
- Does it point to Jesus and bring him glory?
- Does it bring a sense of peace?

What are common practices with prophecy today that should be avoided?

C) WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE

The gift to know something about someone/group that you would not have known apart from revelation from the Lord.

1 Corinthians 12:8

- This gift like prophesy provides insight/revelation into a given situation

How do we know these gifts are from God?

- Romans 12: 6-10 (Love)
- 1 Peter 4: 10-11 (Exalting God)
- 1 Corinthians 14:3 (Encouraging, building and comforting)

HOW DO YOU PRACTICALLY USE THESE GIFTS?

Get each group to do live demonstrations on the following:

- Giving a prophetic word to someone
- Praying for healing
- Bring a word of knowledge
- Praying for deliverance
- Bringing a word of encouragement

Facilitators Notes

After responses you can share this approach.

Use practical recent examples like Bhusheri.

Give scripture to groups and get them to answer the question before giving the answer.

Use this as an opportunity to teach on how to minister. Provide feedback to groups on what to do and not to do.

SESSION 4 – HOW DO WE USE/EXERCISE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT?

- Activation time (Baptism in the Spirit)
- Move into a time of worship (music in the background or singing together)
- Let there be a time for reflection on Jesus through prayer and adoration
- Allow moments of just waiting in stillness/quietness
- Encourage prophetic words to come through
- Encourage the practice of tongues
- Lay hands on each other

SESSION 5 – FEEDBACK/ Q & A

- Let this be a time of reflection on the day's teachings
- Address any misunderstandings (teach a bit more if needed)
- Address any disappointments e.g. didn't speak in tongues (persevering)
- Have a time of group prayer
- Apply a single challenge e.g. trust God for a prophetic word for someone you meet later

Facilitators Notes

Let this be a time to pray for each other, but modelling practically how we prophesy or bring words of knowledge etc.



DAY 2 - SHARING THE GOSPEL

SESSION 1 – WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

“The declaration of the **KINGSHIP** of Christ”

Read Daniel 2: 24-45 (the Statue)

How is the gospel normally presented today?

What is the emphasis on?

- It's presented by saying a prayer after someone. What's wrong with this?
- The emphasis is on the forgiveness of sins, getting into Heaven and living a good life.
- It's presented in a way that tells people that Jesus will take away all their problems? What's the truth? Luke 6:22.

When we talk about **SALVATION**, what are we referring to?

- This normally carries the idea of being saved.
- Becoming a new creation.
- Living a new life.

Although all the above have some significance, let's ask this question:

What are we really being saved from?

- For Israel they viewed this as coming out of oppression from Egyptian rule. Exodus 1:8-14, 2:7-10.
- For us it's not just knowing about God or escaping His judgement but it is God putting right all that went wrong regarding the fall. 2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21: 5-7.
- It's being saved from the destructive power present in the world today. Colossians 1:13.
- The Spirit transforms us and our thinking, causing the life of Jesus to flow through us thus producing fruit for Him. Ephesians 4:23.
- He is also saving us from destroying our own lives.

Facilitators Notes

Get groups to read Daniel 2 and the question to answer is where do they see the gospel in this account. After groups have shared, DRIVE this home pointing to Jesus.

Engage in group discussion distributing the scriptures and allowing them to discover. Allow time for feedback.

What is your understanding on “REPENTANCE?”

- Popular view is the turning away from sin.
- It's like if you were walking in one direction you turn around and walk in the total opposite.
- Biblical view on this is **“change one’s thinking”**- align their thinking now to the New King and His ways, His rule over your life thus renouncing all previous rulers and their way of life.

What must a person do to be SAVED?

Is it going to church, living a good life, reading your bible, giving tithes/offerings?

- Acts 16:30 – “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved”

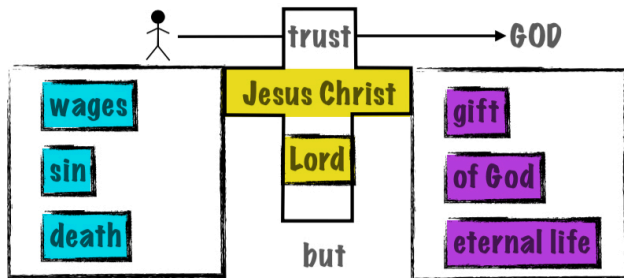
SESSION 2 – HELPFUL TOOLS IN SHARING THE GOSPEL

“The declaration of the KINGSHIP of Christ”

What tools are currently working in your areas? Make a list of them.

Presentation 1

For the wages of sin is death but
The gift of God is eternal life in
Christ Jesus our Lord.



Romans 6:23

Left side – humanity
Right side – God

Middle – the divide (sin)

Jesus – bridge in between

Humanity TRUSTS him they move over

Facilitators Notes

Use this opportunity now to drive this home, the truth of what Jesus has done.

Kindly note that with these presentations you can be flexible meaning these are presentations I normally use, but there are many that one can use in presenting the gospel. Ensure that whichever you use that you are declaring the rule, Kingship and reign of Jesus over all creation.

Presentation 2



GOLD - God made everything perfect including us in our relationship with Him.

BLACK - We rebelled against God & brought death into the world.

RED - Jesus experienced this death on behalf of the whole world.

WHITE - Jesus' victory over death by the resurrection gave everyone an opportunity to come under his rule and also be free from death to experience true life.

GREEN - God is restoring his world, one life at a time, until one day he will bring the whole of creation into freedom from death.

Personal Testimony

- Past (life before Christ)
- Present (life with Christ)
- Future (Hope in Christ)

Get participants to partner with one another and encourage them to share their testimony using the above in 5 minutes.

Leading a person to Christ

Romans 3:23 – “all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” – **SEPARATION FROM GOD** (Adam all the way through to us)

Romans 5:8, “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” – **GOD PROVIDES SALVATION IN THE LAMB** (throughout Israel's history were pictures/declarations of the coming KING)

Romans 10:9, “If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” – **RECEIVING THE GIFT** (Jesus is the New King on the throne).

2 Peter 3:9, “The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish but wants everyone to repent”. - **REPENT** (turn your heart and mind to the King on the Throne).

Romans 6:18, “Now you are free from slavery to sin and you have become slaves to righteous living”. – **LIVING LIFE FOR THE GLORY OF OUR NEW KING JESUS.**

Facilitators Notes

In sharing your personal testimony, get them to focus on their life before they got saved, then their life with Jesus now (what's different) and then their future with Christ (what hope/dreams do they carry in their hearts).

SESSION 3 – SPIRIT EMPOWERED EVANGELISM

Treasure Hunting

Engage in a time of worship, thanksgiving and adoration unto Jesus. Use this time to really connect with Jesus as we seek to hear from him to lead us in treasure hunting.

Get each person to then sit down quietly before the Lord asking him to show/speak to you regarding the 5 things below. Write them down on your piece of paper the first things that start coming to mind.

5 things to pray for:

- Name: John
- Location: Shop
- Identifying feature: Scar on face
- Colour: Yellow t-shirt
- Issue/problem: Finances

Door to door

After a time of prayer, select a location:

- Go 2 or 3 in a group, not large groups
- Don't carry a bible
- Don't be religious
- Be open and attentive to the Spirit as he leads you
- Be open to hear what people are saying
- Don't offer solutions, but Jesus
- Don't be argumentative
- LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, LOVE

SESSION 4 –EVANGELISM ON THE STREETS (What will work?)

The Presence of the Holy Spirit

We want people and passers-by, **to experience, and enter into His presence**. They are drawn by the Holy Spirit. Our total reliance is on the Holy Spirit, we can do nothing without Him. He is our partner on the streets

Peace

Jesus is the Prince of Peace. **In the busiest of places, we create a sanctuary, a safe place, an oasis where people can experience his peace.**

Facilitators Notes

Treasure hunting is also known as prophetic evangelism.

Do a practical session on this and if time permits go out into the streets looking for these treasures. If time doesn't permit encourage folk that as they head home to have their eyes/heart open to meet their treasures that the Lord has set up. Share some testimonies on this also.

If time permits go out into the community and pray for folk.

Be sensitive to your community meaning what works in your own community might not work where you are training.

Gentleness

The streets are full of broken, hurting people. **We minister with gentleness and sensitivity.**

Love

The “compelling love of Christ” propels us out into the marketplace. Whether they are saved, healed or not, **people who come for prayer or whom we interact with should be left in no doubt afterwards that God loves them**, and that here are a group of Christ passionate people who truly care and show love.

Compassion

We are a compassionate people clothed, and moved by his compassion for the lost, hurting, and broken. **Compassion is expressed through our words and action.** (Life of Jesus whilst on earth).

Praying for the **spiritually lost** on the streets **is different** to praying for a **believer in a building!**

If all you have done in the past is pray for believers, then you have to **learn** to pray differently. **Don't use jargon! Example thus says the Lord.**

Always introduce yourself first, and pray for the person **by name.**

Always ask for **permission to pray** and **lay hands** on a person.

Always use **authoritative prayer** when addressing the sickness.

Always have others with you when you pray for someone, **don't** pray alone.

Always keep your **eyes open** when you pray, and be aware of other team members who may have something to pray or share, or who may be struggling, and looking to you for support.

SESSION 5 – FEEDBACK/ Q & A

Use this time to hear stories from their experiences on the streets. What worked, what didn't work? Anyone that needs to be followed up? Any questions that have arisen? Has the teaching been effective from the day?

Facilitators Notes

Don't be religious

You may use this time to pray for those who have been contacted today.



DAY 3 - WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

SESSION 1 – LIVING LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

Living your life as a believer in the Spirit is necessary if we want to see the kingdom advancing amongst us and through us. Jesus is the King of our hearts and lives, and as we submit to him by his Spirit we need to learn from the King himself. **Jesus displayed certain things for us as disciples to catch in terms of the way he lived his life – He lived it in submission to the Father. How? Prayer. Hearing and obeying the voice of the Father.**

PRAYER

- **What is your understanding of prayer?**
It's 2 way communication between you and God. It's not us just bringing our requests to God and leaving but it's an attitude of also waiting to hear him speak.
- **Why is prayer important to a believer?**
Through this we build our relationship with God and get to also understand his heart for the world. It also helps to not become self-centred because we learn to intercede for others in our prayers.
- **How did Jesus teach his disciples to pray?**
Matthew 6: 5- 15 (This is a model that Jesus taught).
People often use the acronym or the above prayer: ACTS
A = adoration
C = confession of sins
T = thanksgiving
S = supplication

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

- **How do you hear Gods voice?** Let's have some examples from the group.
- **How does he speak?** Visions, dreams, scripture, people etc. I believe the Lord can speak through anything if we're willing to hear him. For example, a donkey (2 Peter 2:16).

Facilitators Notes

We want to base the importance of a believer exercising spiritual disciplines for the glory of Christ as we desire to see the kingdom of God advance amongst us. Understanding these disciplines and walking in them is key. Note I have only spoken of a few however there are many other disciplines, use them as you feel led by the Spirit.

Get groups to discuss this.

- **What does His voice sound like?** Has anyone watched the movie “Evan Almighty”? In this movie the voice of God is this thunderous/loud voice that speaks from heaven.
- **What does the scriptures say about Gods voice?**
1 Kings 19, God shows himself in quite the opposite way. Elijah waits to hear God and doesn't hear Him in the wind, an earthquake, or a fire, but in a gentle whisper.
- **Let's read also John 10:27 – who does God speak to?** His people, Christians, believers.

OBEDIENCE TO HIS VOICE

- Why do you think God is wanting to speak to us? To lead, direct and also to help us to understand him more.
- Do you think Christians in general today walk in obedience to the voice of God? No
- Illustration: Francis Chan uses this example saying he tells his child to go clean her room. She comes back after 2 hours and he asked her if she had done what he had asked her to do. She says, ‘No dad, but I memorised what you said. I can also say it in Greek and I've prayed about it.’ This is not obedience to what her father has said to her and sadly in the church that what happens today.
- Read John 14:15 – what does this mean for us today?

SESSION 2 – TRANSFORMING POWER OF THE SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit gives believers the power to live like Jesus and be bold witnesses for him. Jesus said in John 16:7 that it was to our benefit that he would go away so we would receive the Holy Spirit. Why would this be necessary?

POWER TO WITNESS:

Acts 1:8, 2 Timothy 1:7

- What is a witness? Someone who has seen or experienced something that they can undoubtedly testify about.
- Who are we called to witness too? Everyone.
- What is our witness? That Jesus Christ is both Lord and King and His Kingdom has come and is advancing on earth.

Facilitators Notes

Allow groups to discuss this question.

POWER OVER SIN:

James 4:7, Romans 6: 14

- Why is sin such a big thing with regards to the gospel? In the garden where man had a open relationship/partnership with God, it was sin that caused the separation. That's why God hates sin.
- How do you walk daily in power over sin? James 4:7 tells us to submit to God. That submission is walking in obedience to how the Spirit of God is leading/guiding us. It's a daily submission not just on certain days.
- How does Jesus help us to align our thinking with his? Romans 6:14
- What causes you to give into sin? What can we pray for?

POWER OF IDENTITY:

Galatians 4: 4-7

- What does this scripture reveal to us about the heart of God? Based on our separation through sin he made a way in which we can be reconciled to him through his Son Jesus. His desire is that we become his children.
- What causes us at times to lose sight of this truth? Sin, condemnation, inferiority, worthlessness etc.
- Do you struggle with this at times? How does the Lord want us to deal with this?
- How can we pray for you today?

SESSION 3 – PRACTICAL MINISTRY IN THE SPIRIT

As believers we all go through difficulties and troubles in life whereby we need each other to support, counsel, pray and stand with us. We submit to the Spirit of God as he leads men and women to assist other believers through these life issues or difficulties.

- What sort of difficulties do Christians face? What difficulties or attacks are you facing today?
- How do we deal with these challenges?
- Suppose a person comes to you and tells you that they are having a problem with lust. How will you as a Spirit filled believer address this and help lead the person through deliverance?

Facilitators Notes

Let this be a group discussion and allow feedback before offering this suggestion.



Leon Dasrath is married to Shenelle, and they have 2 daughters.

They are based in South Africa. Leon is an evangelist working with the Issachar Alliance, a network of disciple making and church planting movements. Leon's heart is to see many evangelists and church leaders being raised up and seeing the power of the Spirit working not just in the local church but beyond into the nations, thus seeing the Kingdom advance and reaching the unreached.

www.facebook.com/IssacharAlliance/

Design and layout by Pepperfish.co.uk
*Pepperfish offer a creative service to businesses,
charities and churches around the world*

