



LEADER GUIDE

LIFE  
IN  
THE  
SPIRIT

ROBERTSON MCQUILKIN



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# THE AUTHOR

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*Robertson McQuilkin*

ROBERTSON MCQUILKIN is a homemaker, conference speaker, and writer.

Robertson served as president of Columbia International University, Columbia, South Carolina, for 22 years. In 1990 he stepped down to care full time for his wife Muriel, who had reached the stage of Alzheimer's disease in which she needed the care of her husband 24 hours a day. To his astonishment, that decision which he considered easy and unremarkable continues to reverberate throughout the evangelical world. Two articles about Muriel, "Living Vows" and "Muriel's Blessing," have been published in dozens of magazines and books in many languages.

Robertson and Muriel served in full partnership as missionaries in Japan for 12 years prior to his tenure at Columbia. In Columbia, Muriel spawned a host of ministries: a TV puppet show for children, a morning radio talk show, ministries among students' wives, along with constant counseling, entertaining, and various art projects.

The McQuilkins have six children. Mardi is an artist, living with her husband in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; Bob is in heaven, having died in a diving accident in 1988; David is an executive with Xerox in Japan and father of two; Jan is a pastor's wife in Wisconsin and mother of three; Amy serves with her husband as missionaries to Japan and has three children; Kent ministers among the slum dwellers of Calcutta, India.

Robertson has written scores of articles for journals or as chapters in books and has published several books, three of which continue to exert wide influence: *An Introduction to Biblical Ethics* (Tyndale, rev. ed. 1995), *The Great Omission* (Baker, 1984), and *Understanding and Applying the Bible* (Moody, rev. ed. 1992).

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# LEADING A STUDY OF *LIFE IN THE SPIRIT*

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**Note:** Page numbers identified in this leader's guide will be designated "LG."  
All other page references refer to pages in the member book.

Thank you for choosing to facilitate a study of *Life in the Spirit*. Whether you're coordinating multiple groups in your church or leading a small group in your home, I hope you will find this leader's guide helpful and meaningful to your preparation each week. The more familiar you are with the message and the resources of *Life in the Spirit*, the better prepared you will be to lead your group. Complete the following activities to familiarize yourself with the LIFE course. Check off each action that you complete.

In *Life in the Spirit* Member Book:

- Read the Foreword and day 1 of week 1 (pp. 5-11).
- Examine the course map on the inside front cover.
- Read the table of contents (p. 3) to get an overall view of the course.

In this Leader Guide (LG):

- Read the table of contents and scan through this guide to familiarize yourself with the learning aids. Notice that most weeks involve handouts and group session activities.
- Read the remainder of this section and decide how you will conduct the study.

**Decide when and where groups will meet.** We recommend one- to two-hour small-group sessions. One hour is a minimum. Groups should allow two hours if they intend to deal fully with the material covered.

When you have determined the duration of the study, consult the church calendar to find a time for 12 to 24 consecutive weeks with very few interruptions. This will help members continue the habit of completing their daily study and, most importantly, spending time with God. If after four or five weeks members have more than one week off, they tend to lose the momentum, and resuming the study is that much more difficult.

Groups may meet at the church, in homes, a workplace, or other locations convenient to members. You may want to offer group studies at a variety of times and locations so more people will be able to participate. Consider these options:

### *Sunday evenings*

- Meet before or after evening worship.

### *Weekdays*

- Meet at the church at a convenient time to those involved. For instance, a senior adult group might meet before or after noon once a week and eat a sack lunch together in conjunction with their small-group study.
- Meet in members' homes. Homes often provide a quiet and more informal atmosphere for sharing and praying. Be sure to set guidelines about group dismissal, so the group does not wear out its welcome.
- Meet at the workplace. Some employees may want to meet before or after work once a week, provided their employer approves. Others may decide to bring lunch and spend two lunch breaks together each week.

**Decide on the number of groups needed.** Work with your pastor, discipleship director, minister of education, or other church leaders to determine how many individuals in your church want to study this course at this time. Youth may also participate using the youth edition of *Life in the Spirit*. Survey your church members to determine the number of persons interested in the study. You may want to publicize the study in your church newspaper or bulletin. Remember that you will need one group for every 10 members.

**Enlist leaders.** Each group will need a separate leader. Pastor, you may want to lead the first group and train 8 to 10 persons to provide leadership for future groups. If you need more leaders, you may want to take 2 or more groups through the study at different times during the week. Leading the first group will demonstrate your belief in what *Life in the Spirit* is about. It also will be enriching and helpful in your walk with the Lord. If you are unable to lead the first group, enlist another church staff member or lay leader.

Pray that God will help you identify those persons He wants to lead the groups. These leaders should be spiritually growing Christians and active church members. Leaders should have teachable spirits, the ability to relate well to people, a commitment to keep information private, and a willingness to spend the time necessary to prepare for the sessions. Also, look for people who possess skills for leading small-group learning activities. Do not select someone who is having spiritual, marital, or physical difficulties that could hinder their effectiveness.

**Promote the study.** Use the promotion master on LG p. 19 in church newsletters, as a bulletin insert, or enlarge it and use it as a poster. You can also use the two promotional video segments provided in the *Life in the Spirit* Leader Kit. The 30-second segment is designed for use on a local TV station and/or cable channel. You can order a broadcast-quality version of this segment by calling (615)251-2882. The second promotional segment is approximately 4 minutes long and is designed for use with large groups in the church.

**Enlist participants.** Invite church leaders and other prospective participants to the introductory session (LG p. 32). This session will provide enough information for them to decide whether to participate in the study. At the end of the session, give those present an opportunity to sign up for the course. If persons are unwilling to make the necessary commitment to the individual and group study, ask them not to participate at this time.

If after enlisting participants you do not have enough leaders, enlist additional leaders from those who plan to participate. However, use the same criteria for all leaders. If you don't have qualified leaders, start a waiting list and encourage members to pray that God will call out additional leaders. Some leaders might be willing to lead a second group at a different time during the week since little additional preparation would be required.

**Order resources.** Order resources 8 to 10 weeks prior to the introductory session. Although your order will arrive only a week or two after your order, leaders need time to prepare for the overview session and time to enlist participants. Order 8 to 10 member books and one leader guide for each leader. If each group plans to use the videos, each leader will need a leader kit, which includes a member book and a leader guide. Resources include:

*Life in the Spirit*, Member Book (0-7673-2586-9)

*Life in the Spirit*, Leader Guide (0-7673-2587-7)

*Life in the Spirit*, Leader Kit (0-7673-2648-2)

**Prepare or secure additional resources.** Much of your course preparation can be completed at one time. If you will complete the following actions, you will save time for personal and spiritual preparation during the course.

1. Make one copy of the following pages in this leader guide for each member. If possible, use heavier card stock for the Scripture Memory Cards or paste them on card stock after copying.
  - Group-session handouts (LG p. 20-31)
  - Scripture Memory Cards (LG p. 15)
  - Keeping a Spiritual Journal (LG p. 14)
  - Leader evaluation form (LG p. 16)
2. Prepare the following posters:
  - Memorizing Scripture poster—Turn to “Help Members Memorize Scripture” (LG p. 11). Write the boldface instructions or key words on a poster for use in the introductory and first small-group sessions.
  - *Life in the Spirit* course map located on the inside front cover of the members book.
3. Provide chalkboard, overhead projector, or flipchart for use throughout the course. They will be needed on several occasions. Extra sheets of paper will be required in several sessions. Keep a supply in your room.

**Plan to use the optional videos.** The optional video presentations will enhance your group study of *Life in the Spirit*. The video provides a 25-minute introduction for use in the introductory meeting. The video also provides two segments for each class session: (1) a brief overview of the unit study; and (2) a music video which can be used as a worship aid each week in the Experiencing segment of the group time. You may find that your group resists my suggestions of singing together. Singing is a very important part of experiencing life in the Spirit. The videos can provide a great help to encourage members to worship together through song.

Though optional, I recommend these videos and have included them in the group-session plans. Persons who study the printed material and view the videos will have the greatest opportunity for developing life in the Spirit.

**Select a theme song.** People learn much of their theology through songs or hymns. Music is a valuable way to stimulate a spiritual and emotional response to the topics being studied. Consider selecting and singing (or playing a recorded version) of a theme song for this study. You might consider a hymn like “Breathe on Me,” “Spirit of the Living God,” “Trust and Obey” or a contemporary chorus like “Yes, Lord, Yes.” For additional suggestions look at the specific suggestions from the session guides, or consider the hymns used in the *Life in the Spirit* video (see LG p. 64).

**Provide music legally.** Many of the hymns or songs a leader may choose to sing with the group may be copyrighted. To make use of a hymnal or songbook is always best because the leader does not have to be concerned about infringing the copyright law. If you must duplicate a song, make sure that the selection chosen is not copyrighted. You may do several things to provide music at little or no cost.

- Use the music-video segments of the *Life in the Spirit* videotapes. The words to some of the familiar hymns appear on LG p. 64. You have permission to copy those lyrics for use in your group.
- Check with your church staff. Many churches subscribe to copyright services in which they pay a fee to use collections of copyrighted music.
- Your church music minister can also help you to determine songs that are no longer under copyright.
- Use hymnals or songbooks.



**Set and collect fees.** We recommend that participants pay at least part of the cost of the materials so they make a commitment to the study with a financial investment. Announce the fee when you enlist participants so they will not be caught off guard or embarrassed at the introductory session. You may want to provide scholarships for those unable to participate due to lack of financial resources.

**Keep records.** A Christian Growth Study Plan diploma may be awarded to a member who completes *Life in the Spirit*. Instructions appear on page 223. Plan to award diplomas during a worship service or at another appropriate time when the church family can affirm participants. Diplomas recognize the significant work of the participants.

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE FOR A SMALL-GROUP STUDY

This leader guide assists you in preparing for and conducting the small-group learning sessions for a study of *Life in the Spirit*. Pages 32-63 of this guide provide step-by-step procedures for conducting an introductory session and 12 group sessions. Each of the group sessions includes three parts:

- *Before the Session*—This section includes actions for you to complete prior to the group session. On LG page 17 you will find a standard Before the Session list that will be referenced but not repeated each session. You may want to cut out this half page of your book and use it as a bookmark for this guide. The back side contains the standard After the Session list.
- *During the Session*—This section provides activities for you to use in conducting a one- to two-hour small-group session. You will find that the activities suggested will require more than one hour to process effectively. Don't get frustrated if you are limited to one-hour sessions. Adapt the activities and use the ones that are most helpful. The activities for the session follow a similar pattern each week. This simplifies your leadership role, but you should feel free to rearrange or adapt the sessions according to your group's needs.
- *After the Session*—This section guides you in evaluating the group session, your performance as a leader, and the needs of group members. This will help you improve your group leadership skills. As mentioned earlier, a standard After the Session list is on LG page 18. It can be cut out and used as a bookmark for quick reference at the end of each session. You'll want to record in your journal answers to the questions contained in the standard After the Session list.

The group sessions require a minimum of leader preparation so you can give yourself to prayer and personal spiritual preparation. If you adapt the lesson plans or create activities of your own, remember to secure any resources that are required for these activities.

Each week you are encouraged to think about your group members and identify one or more who may need a personal contact from you. Do not neglect this aspect of your ministry. Your primary assignment in this study is to help people develop Spirit-filled living, not just teach knowledge about the Spirit.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE SMALL-GROUP SESSIONS

The purpose of the small-group meeting is to express and process what each member has been studying during the preceding week. Each session will have two objectives: understanding and experience. To help group members understand the material, you will lead the group in activities such as reviewing and interacting. To help them to experience *Life in the Spirit*, you will lead the group in activities like testimony, prayer, and singing.



Understanding begins with knowing the key points of the unit. To be sure all members understand, self-evaluation exercises will help, but we must move beyond ability to recall the facts. To help each member understand the meaning and the implications of the teaching, you will lead in interaction as a group.

The goal of this course, however, is not to gain information but to personally experience life in the Spirit. To gauge spiritual growth is much more difficult than measuring knowledge and understanding. You can help your group members move beyond the elementary stages of learning.

I want to encourage you to devote a major part of the group time to experiencing life in the Spirit. You will facilitate group members experience by:

- *Singing*—Each week I suggest some ways to worship and fellowship with the Spirit through song. You do not have to be an accomplished musician to sing together in the group. Prepare needed music ahead of time. If necessary, enlist someone to lead the group to sing.
- *Personal sharing*—Both telling the story of the Spirit's activity and the hearing of it help us experience His work in our lives.
- *Self-evaluation*—Honesty about our struggles is not easy, nor is evaluating the other members of the group. But we can help one another along the upward spiral.
- *Encourage obedience*—Feelings about the Spirit are of no value if we don't actually connect with Him. Connection comes when we activate the will. Choosing to obey the truths we have studied is the connection.
- *Praying together*—We express our choices in prayer. So prayer—in pairs, in quads, and in the entire group—must be a critical part of our small-group experience.

As you lead your group, concentrate on the five elements above. In these ways we help one another experience victory over temptation, growth toward likeness to Jesus, and, best of all, companionship with God.

## ROLE OF THE SMALL-GROUP LEADER

You may feel inadequate in leading a study about *Life in the Spirit*. You may not think you are knowledgeable enough. Such thoughts and feelings are OK. Your role in this small-group study is not that of a teacher. You are a facilitator of a group-learning process. You will be helping members help each other by applying Hebrews 10:24 (NASB), "Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds."

If God has led you to accept this assignment, you can trust Him to equip and enable you to accomplish the task. You are an instrument through which God wants to do His work. Without God you can do nothing of Kingdom value. With Him you can move spiritual mountains. Depend on God and "pray without ceasing" (1 Thes. 5:17). Keep in mind that the Holy Spirit is present in every session to work in and through you. You are not guiding this group alone!

Group members will be spending time daily studying *Life in the Spirit*. The Holy Spirit will serve as their Teacher, for no spiritual truth can be understood without His involvement. The content and learning activities will help members learn the basic truths and principles during the week.

Members will be working on application of the truths even before coming to the group time. Your role is to help each member understand and experience the truths of the unit just completed.

Much of the understanding and application will happen in the group session each week. This leader guide will provide the resources you need to lead effectively, but don't limit yourself to the group session.

Think of each member as a personal prayer responsibility. Try to discern the spiritual health and responses of each member and bring those to the Lord daily in your private prayer. The Spirit may give you a nudge to reach out personally to some member outside of class time by a telephone call, letter, or lunch or coffee together. Like a shepherd with his sheep, God may give you the high privilege of helping some of your members find the path to “green pastures” and “quiet waters” till the Holy Spirit restores their souls and keeps them on “paths of righteousness” (Ps. 23).

You should expect that members will ask some questions you cannot answer. What you do in response will help them learn to turn to the Lord, His Word, and other believers for assistance. When you do not have an answer (or perhaps even when you do), encourage the group to join you in praying and searching the Scriptures together for an answer. A question may become an extra homework assignment for members to study during the week. Together, ask God to guide you to His answer, to His perspective. Then trust God to do it. When God sends the answer through one or more people in the group, you and your members will come to trust Him more.

### GROUPING MEMBERS DURING THE SESSION

In During the Session, each activity has a recommended grouping. The size of the sub-groups is based on the content to be shared and the amount of time available. You may decide to use different groupings. If you do make a change, evaluate what members will be sharing, how much time you have, and what group size would provide for maximum member participation. The following descriptions explain the terms used in this guide.

- *Small Group*—Refers to a group of 6 to 10 persons including the small-group leader. Unless a different group size is suggested, the activities during the session are for use with the entire small group.
- *Quads*—Refers to four people. Depending on the size of your group, each quad actually may have 3, 4, or 5 members. For instance, if you have 10 members we recommend 2 quads of 3 members and 1 quad with 4. You could, however, have 2 groups of 5. When you divide into quads, verbally give the assignment to all members. You may need to assign 1 member in each quad as the leader.
- *Pairs*—Refers to two people. If you have an odd number of people, one pair will need to have three members, or the extra person could work with you to form a pair.

Include yourself as you can in these small groupings for sharing and discussion. You will not only model a participating attitude, but you will also have the opportunity to share and grow with the group. They need to see you doing the same things you are asking them to do.

### GETTING STARTED

Develop a Time Schedule. Each group session is designed with these four segments:

- Knowing
- Understanding
- Experiencing
- Responding

I have sometimes included an arrival activity in addition to the four segments. Usually the Knowing segment will constitute an arrival activity. Remember, the video for each session is divided into two segments. The first segment should be shown during the Knowing segment. It provides an overview of the unit and a re-

view of the course map. This overview gives the group a focus to begin. The second video segment is designed for praise and worship. The focus is experiencing the Spirit and responding to Him. You will use this segment in either the Experiencing or Responding portion of the group time.

You will find time recommendations beside each segment. For example, a typical unit may contain a schedule such as:

1. Arrival activity (10 mins.)
2. Knowing [including first portion of video] (40 mins.)
3. Understanding (20 mins.)
4. Experiencing (25 mins.)
5. Responding [including second portion of video] (25 mins.)

Each session is planned for two hours. If you do not have two hours in your meeting schedule, you may use one of four optional approaches.

1. Shorten the recommended times of each segment of the session to fit a one- or one-and-one-half-hour format.
2. Divide the sessions into two meetings per week. For example, you might meet for one hour on Sunday and a second hour on Wednesday.
3. Take two weeks per unit of study. Complete individual study and use the first hour's agenda for the first group session. Encourage individual review of the unit during the second week and use the second hour's agenda for the second group session. This option would require a minimum of 25 weeks—an introductory session and 24 group sessions.
4. Rethink the time schedule to provide for the two-hour format.

Obviously you must tailor the schedule to your situation and ministry area. Use your discretion in planning times, but do not shorten the session so much that the group is rushed. A *Life in the Spirit* group needs to be experiential. Members must have time to focus on their response to the Spirit.

**Encourage members to keep a spiritual journal.** Participants will need to keep a spiritual journal during the course, and hopefully will continue to long after the course is completed. This journal will be organized during the introductory session or at least by the first group session. Here are several suggestions:

- Three-ring binder with notebook paper and tab dividers.
- Spiral-bound notebook, preferably with section dividers included.
- Bound "diary" type book with blank pages.
- *Day by Day in God's Kingdom: A Discipleship Journal* is a journal specifically designed for growing disciples. It provides Scriptures to study, verses to memorize, and room for you to record what you experience in your quiet time. You can obtain *Day by Day in God's Kingdom: A Discipleship Journal* (item 0-7673-2577-X) from the Customer Service Center; 127 Ninth Avenue, North; Nashville, TN 37234; 1-800-458-2772; or from Baptist Book Stores and Lifeway Christian Stores.

You may want to provide the same kind of notebook for each member. If so, secure one for each member before the first session and include the cost in the fee for the class. Whether you provide the notebooks or allow members to select their own, provide each member with a copy of *Keeping a Spiritual Journal*, LG page 14.

**Help members memorize Scripture.** Some of your group members may not be skilled at memorizing Scripture. The suggestions at the top of the following page may be helpful. Write the boldface instructions on a poster for use in the introductory and first small-group session. Be prepared to explain each of the suggestions.

1. **Write the verse and reference on an index card.**
2. **Seek understanding.** Read the verse in its context. For example, if you are memorizing 2 Corinthians 3:18 you may want to read 2 Corinthians 3:7-18. Study the verse and try to understand its meaning.
3. **Read the verse aloud several times.**
4. **Learn to quote the verse one phrase at a time.** Divide the verse into short and meaningful phrases. Learn to quote the first phrase word for word. Then build on it by learning the second phrase. Continue until you are able to quote the entire verse word for word.
5. **Repeat the verse to another person and ask him to check your accuracy.**
6. **Review the memorized verse regularly.** During the first week, carry the card in your pocket or purse. Pull it out for review several times daily during waiting periods—like riding an elevator, riding to work, taking a coffee or lunch break. Review the verse at least daily for the first six weeks. Review weekly for the next six weeks and monthly thereafter.

#### **Model Openness by Seeking Evaluation.**

In the latter portion of *Life in the Spirit* members will deal with developing their spiritual gifts by seeking evaluation from others. You can both improve your skills and model such openness for the group by seeking the group's evaluation of your leadership. Use the Leader Evaluation form on LG page 16.

#### **Be Flexible!**

I've outlined in some detail guidelines for leading your small group. To follow this pattern is better than free-lancing each session. But sometimes exceptions arise. Stay alert for times you need to change the schedule.

For example, you may realize that most of the group has missed a major teaching of the unit. Don't move on. Instead, stretch the allotted time and cut back on some other segment of the session. On the other hand, some member simply may not "get it" no matter how long you spend on the subject. Others may have a hobby horse they want to ride and eat up precious time allotted for other important activities. In such cases, suggest that you get together after the session for further interaction. Remember that our objective is not to settle every doctrinal detail but to experience the fullness of life in the Spirit.

Remember, as we study the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and seek to connect with His light and power, He just might want to break loose among us! I've been in meetings where the program was set and part of it was to be a time of sharing testimonies. But suddenly something unexpected happened. Instead of a traditional testimony of God's blessing, someone spoke who either had or wanted a powerful encounter with God.

Look for the signs of the Holy Spirit moving through your group: perhaps tears of brokenness flow over personal failure or helplessness, possibly exultation over some dramatic answer to prayer or victory won. Immediately an electric sense of expectancy begins to flow through the group. Others want to share. The wind of the Spirit begins to blow.

I always face a dilemma as the leader to know whether to set aside the scheduled program and let the Wind blow where He wills or to decide the time has come to pull things back into the order planned because the true Wind has subsided. If the Spirit wants to do a special work in your group, He can and will enable you to respond appropriately. I have learned, however, that you must make some prior commitments in the way you function as a spiritual leader. You must give your plans and agenda to God ahead of time. If He interrupts your group, cancel your agenda and see what the Spirit has in mind.

Here are some suggestions for responding to the Spirit's activity in your group:

1. Watch for things like tears of joy or conviction, emotional or spiritual brokenness, the thrill of a newfound insight, or an opportunity for prayer in response to a need. These things are sometimes seen only as a facial expression. Determine whether you need to talk to the person now with the group or privately. You must depend on the Holy Spirit for such guidance.
2. Respond by asking a probing question such as:
  - *Is something happening in your life right now that you would share with us?*
  - *How can we pray for you?*
  - *Would you share with us what God is doing in your life?*
  - *What can we do to be of help to you?*
3. If someone responds by sharing, then provide ministry based on the need. If the person does not seem ready to respond, do not push or pressure. Give God time to work in his or her life.
4. Invite members to share in ministry to each other. This may be to pray, to comfort, to counsel privately, or to rejoice with the person. When you do not feel equipped to deal with a problem that surfaces, ask the group if one of them feels led to help. You will be amazed at how God works to provide just the right person to minister to a need.
5. Give people the opportunity to testify to what God is doing. This is a very critical point. Often the testimony of one person may be used of God to help another person with an identical problem or challenge. This is also one of the best ways for people to experience God by hearing testimony of His wonderful work in the life of another person. Do not hide God's glory from His people.
6. When you do not sense a clear direction about what to do next, ask the group. You might ask, "Does anyone have a sense of what God would want us to do?" Often God will guide through one of the other members or through a group consensus.

I cannot explain all that you may need to do. I cannot give you directions for handling every situation. But I can speak from experience: If God wants to work in the midst of a group, He can and will give the guidance needed for that time. Your job is to learn to know His voice and then do everything you sense He wants you to do. At the same time trust Him to work through His body—the church. He has placed members in your group and gifted them to build up the body of Christ. Acknowledge and use all of the resources God has given to your group.



# KEEPING A SPIRITUAL JOURNAL

Throughout this course you will have experiences in your spiritual life that you will want to record for later reference. When God speaks to you, you will want to write down what He says. You also will be given opportunity to pray specifically for members of your group and for your church. You will need a notebook of some kind. Assignments in the notebook will fall into four large categories. You may choose to create other categories if you want to.

Sections in your journal should include:

1. **Testimonies.** This section is for diary accounts of what God is doing in, around, and through your life and what you have learned about Him, His purposes, and His ways.
2. **Daily Review.** At the end of each day's work, you will be asked to review the lesson and identify the most meaningful statement or Scripture and then respond to God. The daily review section of your journal provides extra space for you to record summaries of what God is saying to you through His Word, prayer, circumstances, and the church. It also can include summaries of adjustments you sense God wants you to make, directions you sense God is calling you to follow, steps of obedience called for, and other responses God may be calling you to make to Him.
3. **Weekly Review.** Use the questions in the "Spiritual Journal Weekly Review" box at the right to review what God has done during the past week.
4. **Prayer Requests.** This section will be used in each group session for recording prayer requests and answers to prayer for individuals and for your church. It can be divided to include requests such as:
  - Personal requests
  - Requests for group members
  - Requests for my church
  - Other special requests

## Spiritual Journal Weekly Review

Keeping a spiritual journal will help you remember the important things God says to you and the things He does in your life. Use the following questions to review God's activity in your life each week during this course of study. You only need to respond to those questions that apply to what God has done or revealed.

1. What has God revealed to you about Himself? (His name, His character, His nature)
2. What has God revealed to you about His purposes? (His will, His plans, His desires, His activity around you, His assignment to you, His goals, His objectives)
3. What has God revealed to you about His ways? (How He acts, what He does, how He responds in given circumstances, the kind of persons He uses, the ways He involves persons in His work, the ways He goes about accomplishing His purposes)
4. What has God done in your life or through your life that has caused you to experience His presence?
5. What Scripture has God used to speak to you about Himself, His purposes, or His ways?
6. What particular person or concern has God given you a burden to pray for? What has He guided you to pray for this person or concern?
7. What has God done through circumstances that has given you a sense of His timing or direction concerning any aspect of His will?
8. What word of guidance or truth do you sense God has spoken to you through another believer?
9. What adjustment is God leading you to make in your life?
10. What acts of obedience have you taken this week? What acts of obedience do you know God is wanting you to take?



<p><b>Unit 1</b> We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. -2 Corinthians 3:18, NKJV</p>	<p><b>Unit 5</b> Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own -1 Corinthians 6:19  The righteous will live by his faith. -Habakkuk 2:4</p>	<p><b>Unit 9</b> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. -Romans 12:1-2, NKJV</p>
<p><b>Unit 2</b> So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female. -Genesis 1:27, GNB</p>	<p><b>Unit 6</b> For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. -2 Peter 1:5-8</p>	<p><b>Unit 10</b> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. -1 Corinthians 12:7, RSV Eagerly desire the greater gifts. -1 Corinthians 12:31</p>
<p><b>Unit 3</b> All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living, so that the person who serves God may be fully qualified and equipped to do every kind of good deed. -2 Timothy 3:16-17, GNB</p>	<p><b>Unit 7</b> Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. -1 Corinthians 15:57</p>	<p><b>Unit 11</b> You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. -Acts 1:8</p>
<p><b>Unit 4</b> If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! -2 Corinthians 5:17</p>	<p><b>Unit 8</b> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. -Ephesians 5:18  The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. -Galatians 5:22-23</p>	<p><b>Unit 12</b> "I pray ... that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us ... I in them, and You in Me..." -John 17:21,23 NKJV  If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. -Romans 8:11</p>

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### LEADER EVALUATION FORM

1. Did I appear to be adequately prepared? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What are specific areas needing more preparation?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Following our group session I felt we had reached our objectives:

	Very well.....									Hardly at all
Knowledge	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Understanding	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Experiencing	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Responding	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

4. Our quad seems to be coming together in open communication.  Yes  No

5. Did I talk:

too much?

not enough—providing too little direction?

6. Was I sensitive to the concerns of members?  Yes  No

7. Was I successful in getting everyone to participate?  Yes  No

8. Was I enthusiastic about how God will use *Life in the Spirit* in member's lives and in our church?  Yes  No

9. What was the best thing about today's group session?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What part(s) of today's session needs improvement?

\_\_\_\_\_

11. Suggestions on how to make that improvement.

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Any other suggestions, comments, praises, concerns, you would like to express:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**STANDARD BEFORE THE SESSION**

Cut on the dotted line and use these standard checklists before and after each group session. You might want to laminate these cut-out sections and use as a bookmark for this guide.

**BEFORE THE SESSION**

The following suggestions for preparation are standard for each of the 12 small-group sessions. They will be referenced but not repeated.

1. Complete all the learning activities for the current unit in the member's book.
2. Pause and pray for God's guidance as you prepare for this week's group session. Pray for each member of your group.
3. Secure the hymns or choruses you choose.
4. Read through "During the Session." Decide on the amount of time to allow for each activity and write the time in the margin you think each activity should begin. Always be prepared to change your plans if the Holy Spirit should lead you and the group in another direction.
5. Preview the video segments for the session. Note the length of each segment and plan what you will say before and after you show each part.
6. Prepare a two-minute overview of the next unit.
7. Obtain a TV/VCR if you are using the video.
8. Make copies of the music-video lyrics (p. 64) for reading and possible singing with the video.

## AFTER THE SESSION

The following suggestions for preparation are standard for each of the 12 small-group sessions. They will be referenced but not repeated.

1. Record in the prayer section of your own spiritual journal specific ways you can pray for group members. Do you sense a need to pray intently for any one person in particular? If so, record concerns you need to pray about for that person.
  
2. Ask yourself the following questions and make notes in your journal.
  - What resources, if any, do I need to get for group members? Does everyone have a member's book and spiritual journal?
  - What spiritual or mental preparation do I need to make for the next session that may have been lacking this week?
  - Which members need to be encouraged to participate more in the sharing and discussion times? When and how will I encourage them?
  - When could I have responded more appropriately to the needs of members or to the leadership of the Holy Spirit?
  - How well did I do at beginning and ending on time?
  - Which members most need a phone call this week for encouragement, prayer, instruction, correction, or counsel? When shall I make the calls?
  
3. Read through "Before the Session" for the next session to get an idea of the preparation that will be required for your next group session.

# LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

## Do you want to ...

- Learn what the Holy Spirit is doing in the world today?
- Discover how you can live a Spirit-filled life?
- Experience life in a love relationship with the Spirit of God?

*Life in the Spirit*, will lead you in a 12-unit study of the Bible to learn how the Holy Spirit affects your life. Learn to see the Holy Spirit at work in Scripture and in your life. Examine how the Spirit designed you with a special purpose. Watch as the Spirit reveals God to the world and to you. Let the Spirit lead you up a spiral of growth to greater likeness to Jesus.

Robertson McQuilkin, missionary, college president, conference speaker, and writer shares real-life stories of the Holy Spirit at work today. You will be inspired to experience a growing relationship with the Spirit of God.

**Interested?** Attend the introductory session:

DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 TIME \_\_\_\_\_  
 PLACE \_\_\_\_\_

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**Interested?** Attend the introductory session:

DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 TIME \_\_\_\_\_  
 PLACE \_\_\_\_\_

## GET ACQUAINTED

- a. Name \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Address \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work, if you can receive calls at work) \_\_\_\_\_
- d. What I liked best about my home town ...  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- e. I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior when...  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Something interesting you might not know about me ...  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- g. I chose to study this course on Life in the Spirit because...  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## UNIT 1 REVIEW QUIZ

1. What is God's standard for Christian living? (1 answer) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is God's provision for the Christian to meet that standard? (2 answers)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is my responsibility for appropriating God's provision? (3 answers)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What results can I expect in my personal life if I fulfill that responsibility? (3 answers)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
5. What does God expect of me in reaching out to others? (2-4 answers)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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## UNIT 2 REVIEW QUIZ (10 MINS.)

1. Although a “spiritual” person might be all the following, check the most comprehensive.

- having a spirit as well as a body
- interested in the unseen realm
- Christlike in behavior
- religious
- experiences life in the Spirit
- sensitive to the needs of others

2. Underline the characteristic in each pair that best describes the Holy Spirit.

- |                                |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. personal                    | impersonal                          |
| b. a name for God              | one person of the godhead           |
| c. created before time         | uncreated                           |
| d everywhere present           | sent on special tasks               |
| e. comes when a believer calls | is always present in every believer |

3. Check everything in the following list that is part of our likeness to God.

- ability to think
- capacity to love God and be loved of Him
- ability to talk
- conscience: knowing moral right from wrong
- body
- God-compatible spirit
- creative

Put an asterisk (\*) beside the answer you like best or are most grateful for.

4. What is the ultimate reason God made you like Himself? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Check those items which you expect God to accomplish in you in your lifetime:

- 1. daily sense of companionship with God
- 2. unfailing Christlike behavior
- 3. consistent victory over my besetting temptation
- 4. steady growth toward likeness to Jesus
- 5. attitudes of perfect love, joy, peace, patience, purity, contentment, and humility

Put an asterisk (\*) beside the answer you feel He has best accomplished in you already.

### UNIT 3 REVIEW QUIZ

Put a T by all that are wholly true and F by any that are wholly or partly false.

1. \_\_\_ In the Bible the Holy Spirit revealed all the truth worth knowing.
2. \_\_\_ Inspiration means that the Holy Spirit dictated to the human authors of Scripture the very words He wanted to communicate.
3. \_\_\_ The authority of a statement for the hearer or reader depends on who said it.
4. \_\_\_ The purpose of interpretation is to find the meaning intended by the author.
5. \_\_\_ All interpretations are equally valid.
6. \_\_\_ "Illumination" is the term used to indicate the way the Spirit inspired Bible authors.
7. \_\_\_ Since the Bible is a supernatural book, the interpreter should look for hidden, spiritual meanings in each passage, especially when seeking guidance.
8. \_\_\_ Bible believing Christians can't agree on more than about 50 percent of what the Bible text means.
9. \_\_\_ One true interpretation always exists, but there may be many true applications of a Bible teaching.
10. \_\_\_ We're pretty much on our own when it comes to understanding and applying the Bible.
11. \_\_\_ Those who point out error in Scripture are actually putting their judgment over biblical authority.
12. \_\_\_ I should treat Scripture as infallible, but not my every interpretation of it.
13. \_\_\_ Only those who intend to obey a Bible teaching can be confident of their understanding of it.
14. \_\_\_ We studied 7 distinct ways in which the Bible reveals God's will for my life.
15. \_\_\_ Some people use the term "interpretation" to indicate a meaning imposed on the plain statement of Scripture, even if it's unrelated to the author's intended meaning.

Name one interpretation of Scripture you have heard that bothers you most. Decide which of the following is the chief problem.

- a. Understanding the author's meaning
- b. Difficulty in obeying the clear teaching
- c. Confidence that the passage is really from God
- d. The interpreter has used a naturalistic approach, treating the Bible as a purely human effort
- e. The interpreter has used a supernaturalistic (magical) or intuitive approach
- f. The interpreter has imposed a meaning on the text from her or his own tradition, cultural background, or personal preference

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## UNIT 4 REVIEW QUIZ

1. In this unit we focused more on Jesus than on the Holy Spirit, so it may surprise you to realize we considered at least 8 activities of the Spirit! In the short blanks, name as many of the activities as possible.


2. Now in the margin to the left of each activity, number them in the order they must be experienced. In other words, without the preceding activity, the Spirit can't accomplish the next. Hint: this is not the same order we studied them in the unit.
3. Now, in the line following each activity, explain why you put it in the order you did. For example, it's clear that I couldn't be born again if Jesus hadn't died, so "regeneration" can't come before His sacrificial death to provide for my salvation.

- a. For Christ to be in me means ...


- b. For me to be in Christ means ...


- c. What I like about the law is ...


- d. What I don't like about the law is ...


## UNIT 6 REVIEW QUIZ

1. What is the first and indispensable step in the path of spiraling upward toward likeness to Jesus and oneness with God?

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2. What are at least three major means of grace ("tools of the Spirit") that help us grow as we participate with the Spirit?

---

3. Why do some Christians fail to grow spiritually? Name three potential blocks to spiraling up.

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4. In unit 6 I told two stories of spiraling up, Matusyama's and my own. What is your story? Write it out briefly below.

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## UNIT 6 CONCEPT ANALYSIS

1. **True-False.** Be careful to mark F if any part of the statement is incorrect.

- a. All Christians are growing, it's just that some grow faster than others.
- b. No Christian ever need repent—that was done once for all at conversion.
- c. Growth begins with surrender to the will of God and continues from then on whether a person is intentional about it or not.
- d. A person can grow in quality of Christian character, but you can't grow in surrender or faith—you either have them or not.
- e. The ultimate goal of our upward spiral is Christlike behavior.

2. What one response is always needed to change adverse circumstances into blessings? \_\_\_\_\_

---

3. Suffering may come from many sources. Mark through any that are never the source of suffering.

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| • The devil                    | • The natural result of living in a fallen world |
| • God                          | • Other people: enemies, friends, strangers      |
| • Sin—my own or someone else's | • Error or mistake—my own or someone else's      |

4. Circle each of the following that are never God's purposes in allowing you to suffer.

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| • To bring Him glory            | • Guidance—leading us to do something we might not otherwise do |
| • Discipline resulting from sin | • To make us miserable so we'll want to go to heaven            |
| • Growth toward Christlikeness  | • Testing our faith   |

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## UNIT 7 REVIEW QUIZ

Handout 7a

1. Name 6 or 7 activities of the Holy Spirit studied thus far.

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2. As completely as possible, state a biblical definition of sin. Incorporate the concepts we studied in day 3.

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3. In day 4 we distinguished two kinds of victory we can expect, depending on the variety of sin we are thinking about (1. deliberate or willful, 2. unintentional, 3. resulting from slavery). What are they?

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## BIBLICAL BALANCE IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

### 1. *God's standard: that we become like Jesus*

Beside each example write either an L for too low or H for too high an expectation of success. Then write your own statement of what you can expect with regard to becoming like Christ.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. Cheryl has achieved absolute perfection. | <input type="checkbox"/> c. Allison settles for a defeated pattern of life. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. Don expects to be less than a conqueror. | <input type="checkbox"/> d. John hasn't sinned in five years                |

My statement: Regarding becoming like Jesus, I \_\_\_\_\_

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### 2. *God's provision: the Holy Spirit*

Beside each example write either SE for self effort or NE for no effort (avoiding responsibility by expecting the Spirit to do it all). Then write your own statement of the Holy Spirit's role in Christlike living.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. It all depends on me. | <input type="checkbox"/> c. Spectator Christianity: get out of the way and let God do everything. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. Let go and let God.   | <input type="checkbox"/> d. God helps those who help themselves.                                  |

My statement: The Holy Spirit's role is \_\_\_\_\_

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### 3. *My responsibility: obedient faith*

Beside each example write either F for fatalism or P for presumption. Then write your own statement of your duty to respond in faith.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. "Name-it-and-claim-it" faith | <input type="checkbox"/> c. If you only have faith, you'll be healthy and have abundance always. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. Whatever will be will be     | <input type="checkbox"/> d. Sin is inevitable.   |

My statement: My responsibility for faith means \_\_\_\_\_

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## UNIT 8 REVIEW QUIZ

1. List 3 biblical meanings of the picture words, *filled with the Spirit*.

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2. After each meaning note a date, period in your life, or occasion on which you feel you experienced the Spirit's filling in that sense.

## UNIT 8 CONCEPT ANALYSIS QUIZ

Mark T for every statement that is wholly true and F for every statement that is wholly or partly false.

- \_\_\_ 1. I'm the best one to judge whether I'm filled with the Spirit based on spiritual fruit.
- \_\_\_ 2. The word *revival* actually refers to the experience of a group of Christians rather than to unbelievers or an individual Christian.
- \_\_\_ 3. You can experience a personal revival whether or not others participate.
- \_\_\_ 4. A person who is already full of the Holy Spirit can be "filled."
- \_\_\_ 5. When it comes to an inner feeling of fullness only others can judge whether I'm truly full.
- \_\_\_ 6. Being full of the Spirit refers first of all to a relationship between two persons.
- \_\_\_ 7. This is the first unit in which we've studied the fruit of the Spirit.

## PRAYER GUIDE

1. Private prayer. Reaffirm your relationship to the Holy Spirit as unconditional Lord of life with no fine print in the contract, no conditions. If you have never made such a commitment, consider doing so now.
2. Share with the group the fruit you're asking the Spirit to give you more of (p. 141, mb). You can explain your desire briefly if you feel it would help. After each person shares, the person to his or her right should pray, asking God to give a bumper crop of that fruit.
3. Share with the group any hope you may have for greater power in some ministry you have or you are contemplating. After sharing, the person to the left should pray for the Spirit to grant that request.
4. Prayer time for revival in your local church.
5. Prayer time for revival in the whole church in the United States and worldwide.

*Purposes of  
the church*

*Gifts that contribute to that purpose*

Worship

---

Fellowship

---

Discipleship

---

Ministry

---

Evangelism

---

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak  
In living echoes of thy tone;  
As thou hast sought, so let me seek  
Thy erring children lost and lone.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
The precious things thou dost impart;  
And wing my words, that they may reach  
The hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with thy fullness, Lord,  
Until my very heart o'er flow  
In kindling tho't and glowing word,  
Thy love to tell, thy praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me,  
Just as thou wilt, and when and where;  
Until thy blessed face I see,  
Thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.

—Frances R. Havergal

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# THE PROGRESS OF WORLD EVANGELISM

The long quotation below is from the *Manila Manifesto*, edited by John R. Stott at the global Lausanne Congress in Manila, in July of 1989.

## The Challenge of AD 2000 and Beyond

The world population is approaching 6 billion. One third nominally confess Christ. Of the remaining 4 billion, half have heard of Him, half have not. In the light of these figures, we evaluate our evangelistic task by considering 4 categories of people.

First, the **committed** constitute the potential missionary work force. In this century this category of Christian believers has grown from about 40 million in 1900 to about 500 million in 1989, and at this moment is growing over twice as fast as any other major religious group.

Secondly, the **uncommitted** make a Christian profession (they have been baptized, attend church occasionally and even call themselves Christians), but the notion of a personal commitment to Christ is foreign to them. They are found in all churches throughout the world. They urgently need to be re-evangelized.

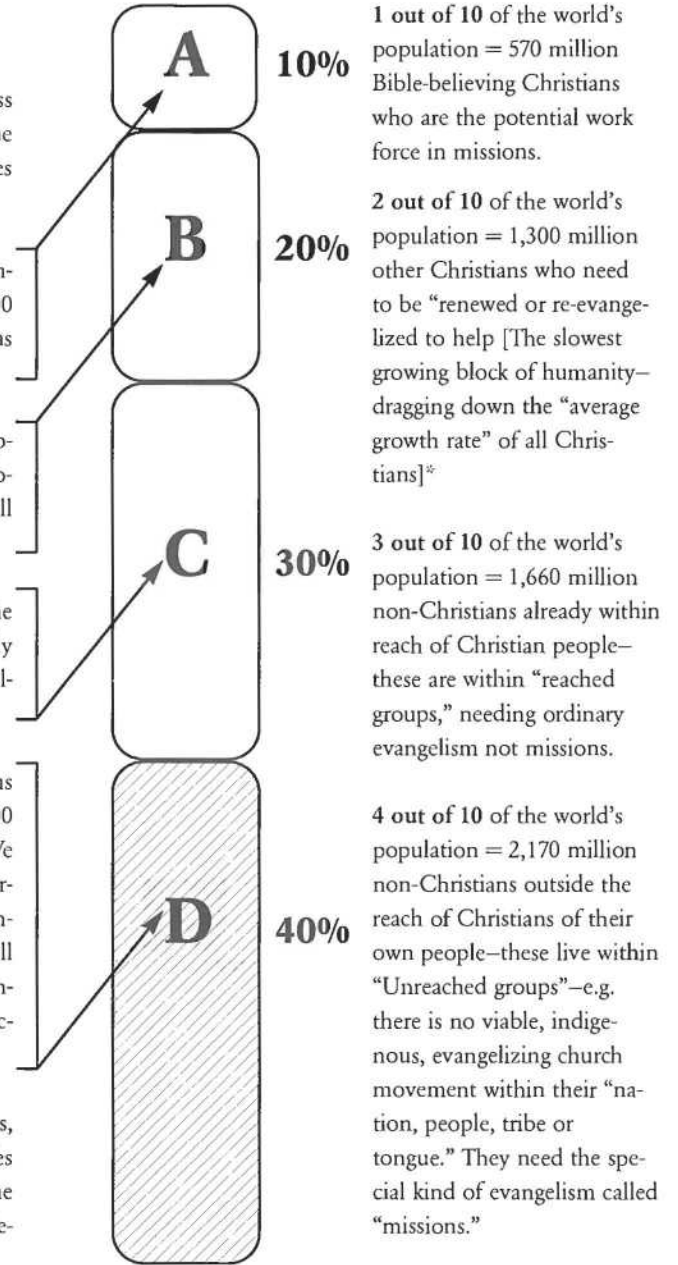
Thirdly, the **unevangelized** are people who have a minimal knowledge of the gospel but have had no valid opportunity to respond to it. They are probably within reach of Christian people if only these will go to the next street, road, village or town to find them.

Fourthly, the **unreached** are 2 billion people who may never have heard of Jesus as Savior, and are not within reach of Christians of their own people. Some 2,000 peoples or nationalities do not yet have a vital, indigenous church movement. We find it helpful to think of them as belonging to smaller 'people groups' that perceive themselves as having an affinity with each other (e.g. a common culture, language, home, or occupation). The most effective messengers to reach them will (would) be those believers who already belong to their culture and know their language. Otherwise, missionaries must go, leaving behind their own culture and sacrificially identifying with the people they long to reach for Christ.

About 11,000 such unreached people groups exist within the 2,000 larger peoples, so that the task is not impossible. Yet at the present only 7% of all missionaries are engaged in this kind of outreach, while the remaining 93% are working in the already evangelized half of the world. If this imbalance is to be redressed, a strategic redeployment of personnel will be necessary...

We are deeply ashamed that nearly two millennia have passed since the death and resurrection of Jesus, and two-thirds of the world's population have not yet acknowledged Him. On the other hand, we are amazed at the mounting evidence of God's power even in the most unlikely places of the globe. Christ commands us to take the gospel to all peoples. The task is urgent. We are determined to obey him with joy and hope. (John R. Stott, *Manila Manifesto*)

For every Bible-believing Christian in the world only four people (Group D) are still behind cultural and linguistic barriers sealed off from any normal gospel witness. Never before have we been so close to the end of the remaining specifically *missionary* task.



**Summary:**  
 1 = 570 (A)  
 2 = 1,300 (B)  
 3 = 1,660 (C)  
 4 = 2,170 (D)  
 10 = 5,700  
 (= world population, roughly mid 1994)

\*Note: 90% of the world's missionaries work with groups B and C, where missionary work has already had great success. This leaves only 10% to push on into the final domain of group D.

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## MY GREAT COMMISSION INVESTMENT

Handout 11d

**My level of faithfulness in witness:**

The past year I shared my faith with no one

When others initiated the conversation, I talked about my faith

I shared my faith with at least five unbelievers last year

I regularly talk about spiritual things with friends, coworkers, and those I meet.

**Gift of evangelism:**

I don't have the gift of evangelism, and don't particularly want it.

I don't have the gift of evangelism but pray God will give it to me.

I think I may have the ability to win people to faith but don't do much of it.

At least several times each year I win someone to Christ.

**Amount of time I spend in prayer for missionaries and/or some unreached group of people:**

never

occasionally

weekly

5 minutes daily

10 minutes or more

**During the past year my level of giving to God's work was:**

very little

impulse

tithe

manager

sacrificial

faith for funds beyond sacrifice

## SPIRALING UP

Handout 12a

Beside the spiral below write the following in the order they occur as we live life in the Spirit:

*know, companion, yield, change, become like Jesus, trust, love, obey.*




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## INTRODUCTORY SESSION

### SESSION GOALS

Potential members will:

- overview the content of the course
- discover how the course is designed to help them experience life in the Spirit
- understand what will be expected of them in a LIFE course
- demonstrate a commitment to complete the individual study and group session requirements for the course.

### BEFORE THE SESSION

- Prepare yourself spiritually through prayer for the upcoming session. Ask the Spirit to draw people to the introductory session that He wants to involve in this study.
- Read through "During the Session." Adapt or develop the activities in a way that will best help your group understand the overview of the content and make a commitment to participate.
- Decide on the amount of time to allow for each activity. Plan one and one half hours for this introductory session. If you do not use the introductory video, plan for one hour. Subsequent sessions are designed for two hours. If you have less than two hours for group sessions you will need to adapt the recommended times for the length of your sessions. Write a time in the margin to indicate when each activity should begin, such as 6:20 or 7:15.
- Have on hand copies of the member's book for each anticipated participant.
- Make arrangements to have an overhead projector.
- Prepare an overhead cel of the suggestions for memorizing Scripture.
- Secure the theme hymn or chorus for each person.
- Be prepared to register those who decide to participate in the course. If members will pay for their own books, decide how you will collect book fees. You may want to enlist a person to receive the fees after the session.
- If you have not read and completed all the preparations in "Leading a Small-group Study of *Life in the Spirit*," do so before the introductory session.
- Preview the video segment for the introductory session.
- Arrange for a TV and VCR for the video segments. Make copies of the music-video lyrics (LG p. 64) for reading and possible singing with the video.

### DURING THE SESSION

#### Arrival Activity (10 mins.)

1. Greet prospective members as they arrive. Give a copy of *Life in the Spirit* member book to each attendee. Divide the group into pairs. Ask each pair to examine the contents page as an introduction to the sessions that are designed to launch them into a new dimension of life in the Spirit. Suggest they share with each other lessons that particularly intrigue them or raise questions.
2. After pairs have had sufficient time to look through the book, offer an opening prayer. Pray that God will use this session to give insight into how members can develop a life lived in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Ask God to guide each person in making a decision about whether or not to study *Life in the Spirit*.
3. Share with the group your reasons for a commitment to study *Life in the Spirit* and let them feel your enthusiasm for what lies ahead.
4. Sing together the hymn or chorus you have chosen as a theme for the course.

#### Introductory Video Segment (30 mins.)

1. Explain that the introductory video segment will introduce the group to Robertson McQuilkin, our guide for the study of *Life in the Spirit*. Invite viewers to note questions or thoughts as they watch the video.
2. Show the introductory segment (25 mins.).
3. Lead a brief discussion of impressions of what they have heard and seen. Are they intrigued or excited about any aspect of the study? Do they think the author's experience prepares him to speak on the topic? (5 mins.)



**Course Overview (20 mins.)**

1. Explain that this study is not intended to be a gimmick, a technique, or 10 easy steps to experience life in the Spirit. Rather, the personal workbook and the small-group sessions are designed to help members develop a relationship with the Holy Spirit that will produce greater likeness to Jesus.
2. Refer to the contents page and give a one-sentence explanation or “teaser” of the content for each session.
3. Call attention to the course map on the inside front cover of the member book. Briefly review the map to help participants visualize the connection between the activities of the Spirit. Refer to unit 1 for an explanation of the course map, but do not try to fully explain the map at this point.
4. Review the course requirements. Use the information under “The Lay Institute for Equipping” (p. 9) to explain how the LIFE-courses offer a personal, in-depth approach to developing life in the Spirit. Explain the requirements of self-study and participation in the small-group sessions. Emphasize that participants will need to set aside 30 minutes a day five days a week to complete assignments. Suggest that members who are not able to commit their time to the individual and small-group study should not participate at this time. Offer to put names on a list for announcements of future studies when schedules may be more conducive to participation.
3. Announce when and where groups will be meeting to study *Life in the Spirit*.
4. Call for and answer any questions participants may have regarding the content of the course or course requirements.

**Getting Ready for Next Week (20 mins.)**

Ask the group to open their Member Books to page 6. Using the following outline, describe the process for self-study that members will use during the coming week prior to the first small-group session.

1. *Unit Page*. Describe the various elements of the unit page. Point out the memory verse on the unit page. Using the Scripture memory overhead cel, suggest ways members can memorize Scripture.
2. *Daily Assignments*. Explain how content is divided into five daily assignments. Encourage members to study only one day at a time, so they will have time to think about and apply the teachings in their lives. Explain that if they decide to participate in the study, their first assignment will be to complete the daily work for unit 1 before the first small-group meeting.
3. *Learning Activities*. Point out one of the learning activities with the symbol © and boldface type. Encourage members to complete all learning activities. Some will be simple, others more difficult; but working through each activity will be essential to fully understand the meaning and implications of the content. Optional: Consider doing one of the learning activities together.
4. *Spiritual Journal*. Turn to page 10 in the member book and read the section on spiritual journaling. Encourage keeping a journal, at least for the duration of the course. Perhaps, it will become a life-long habit!
5. *Prayer*. *Life in the Spirit* centers around listening and talking with God and so must this course of study.
  - Before each daily lesson. Encourage beginning each lesson by asking the Lord to be your teacher and making yourself fully available to Him. “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”
  - At the end of lessons. Turn to page 11 (the end of day 1) and point out the sample prayer. Explain that members should always end their day’s study with prayer. Many lessons provide instructions for or examples of prayer. Members may use sample prayers as their own or simply as a suggestion for their personal approach

to God. Turn to page 15 (the end of day 2) and note that the author may not write a prayer but simply suggest something you may wish to talk with God about. The most important part of the lesson may be concluding it with prayer—bringing closure to all the Spirit has been talking to you about.

- Prayer partners. Suggest that every member enlist a person to be a prayer partner with him or her during this study. This person could be a group member, spouse, or a close friend. Ask members to share regularly with this person specific ways they can pray for him or her as they grow in living life in the Spirit.

#### Decision Time/Closing (10 mins.)

1. *Registration, Books, and Fees.* Describe the process for members to register for the course. Announce the book fee and tell members how to pay the fee.
2. Ask members to turn to page 222 in the member book and read aloud the covenant agreement. Give members an opportunity to discuss any changes or additions they want to make. Seek full agreement on the covenant. Then ask members to make the changes agreed to on their copies. Ask them to fill in their name at the top.
3. Ask those who are willing to make a commitment to the course to sign their own covenant.
4. Call for a time of silent prayer. Ask those present to pray about their participation in *Life in the Spirit*. After a period of time, lead a prayer requesting God's guidance about the decisions being made and for blessing on the coming weeks of study.

#### AFTER THE SESSION

- In your personal list of those enrolled in your small group, make a note of any facts or impressions you have gleaned that will help you in your daily prayer for each member.
- Read and complete the evaluations and activities described in the Standard After the Session instructions (LG p. 18 ).
- Save all overhead cels for use in later sessions.
- Give the information from the registration sheets to the appropriate person in your church (if your small group is church-sponsored). If you have more than 10 people per group, enlist additional leaders for every 8 to 10 people prior to the first small-group session.
- Secure additional resources as needed. If you don't have enough member books, call 1-800-458-2772 to place an order or check with your local Baptist Book Store or Lifeway Christian Store for copies.

## GROUP SESSION 1

## THE SPIRIT AND THE SPIRAL

## BEFORE THE SESSION

- Refer to standard Before the Session procedures.
- Arrange chairs in groupings of four.
- Gather the following items and include any others you need for activities you may have developed on your own:
  - extra copies of the member's book for any new members. Arrange for any new members to have an orientation sometime following the group session.
  - paper and pencils.
  - a copy of the Get Acquainted questions (handout 1a) for each member
  - a copy of the unit 1 review (handout 1b) for each member
  - optional overhead cel of the unit 1 questions
  - the overhead cel on memorizing Scripture used in the introductory session.

## DURING THE SESSION

Most of the activities for this session will be accomplished in small groups of four called quads. You may need to have three or five members in some groups if your enrollment is an uneven number. Remember, each time you divide the small group into pairs or quads, give verbal instructions to everyone. You may want to write the instructions on a chalkboard or newsprint. Members should stay in the same seating arrangement throughout the session. After a small-group experience, simply ask the group to direct their attention toward you without completely rearranging the chairs.

The activities of every small group session will follow this sequence:

1. Knowing
2. Understanding
3. Experiencing
4. Responding

- *Knowing* will include activities that review the contents of the unit such as a quiz, group review, and quoting the memory verse in pairs. You will use the first segment of the video in the knowing segment.
- *Understanding* will involve activities such as soliciting questions that are still unresolved and interaction in quads or as a whole group.
- *Experiencing* will contain activities such as sharing testimonies, personal application, and singing.
- *Responding* will involve prayer—individual, by pairs or quads, and in the group as a whole. This is the time when you will seek to lead your members to make some specific commitment concerning the teaching of the unit. You will use the final portion of each week's videotape during this segment.

## Arrival Activity (15 mins.)

1. Greet members as they arrive and give each member a copy of the Get Acquainted statements (handout 1a). Seat them in groupings of four. While others are coming in, ask members to complete the statements in the handout.
2. Ask the quads to share with each other their responses to a, d, and e. Reconvene the large group and ask volunteers to share responses to a, f, and g. Collect the papers so you will have names, addresses, and phone numbers.

## SESSION GOALS

Members will:

- get acquainted with other members of the small group
- understand the flow of the course

3. Lead an opening prayer. Thank God for bringing this group of people together. Acknowledge God's presence in your midst and ask the Holy Spirit to be your Teacher during the session. Ask Him to begin bonding your lives together in Christian love and unity during the sessions of this study.

### **Knowing (25 mins.)**

1. Show video segment (5 mins.).
2. *Content Review.* Ask the quads that are seated together to choose a presider and a recorder. Distribute the Unit 1 Review Quiz (handout 1b). Each quad should interact briefly, coming to a consensus on an answer to each question. Explain that the purpose here is to review what was presented in the unit, not to start from scratch and theorize on other possibilities. The recorder should note the consensus answers for later sharing with the entire group.
3. Reconvene the large group and ask for answers to each question, noting them on the chalkboard or overhead transparency. Each member should fill in any answers missing from his or her review list for later use. For a full answer, refer back to the lesson under review. Here are possible short answers to put on the unit outline on chalkboard, or overhead transparency. Don't provide the answers in advance; try to draw answers from the members. Synonyms are acceptable answers.
  1. God Himself. Members may have put Jesus or the Bible, though they really should put "God as revealed in the Bible" if they choose the Bible as the answer.
  2. A new creation and a new relation. Regeneration or indwelling would be technical terms someone may suggest.
  3. I must know, yield, and trust—know certain basic facts, yield my will unconditionally to God, and trust the Holy Spirit to keep His promise and bring me to His goal for me.
  4. Victory, growth, and companionship (or synonyms)—victory over temptation, growth toward likeness to Christ, and personal companionship with the Lord.
  5. Gifts and witness for sure, but the full answer would also include evangelism and world missions. Spirit-given abilities are varied; but all are for serving God through His church, thus serving people.

This review serves the purpose of knowing what was covered, not for settling all problems. Explain that the group will return to these issues for interaction at a later time. Invite members to share questions or concerns about these issues by writing these comments on paper you will provide. Give 2-3 minutes for them to write out the questions, and then collect them. Begin with this first session training the group members to work together. Explain the four-part approach to sessions: 1. Knowing, 2. Understanding, 3. Experiencing, and 4. Responding. State that each week the group will first review the basic concepts, then resolve questions, share personal application, and finally respond to God in prayer.

4. *Memory Work Review.* Divide the quads into pairs and have them quote the memory verse and reference until they can do so without prompting. During this time, read over the questions submitted and group together those that are on the same issues.

### **Understanding (20 mins.)**

Start with the questions people seem to have in common and lead a discussion. Point members to biblical answers by referring to the member book and the Scriptures noted there. Don't feel you need to have all the answers. This first session is a good time for the group to begin looking to you as a partner rather than as the

guru—the source of all wisdom—for the group. Don't be afraid to let them see you as a fellow seeker after truth. Don't hesitate to say, "I'm not quite sure about that." You will encourage more group interaction by turning the question back to the group on occasion: "What do you think about that question?" Or, "Let's see if someone can find a Scripture passage that speaks to this." The purpose here is to clarify biblical truth, not to engage in theological debate, so strictly limit the time. If questions remain, invite the person(s) to speak to you afterward. At that time, if the person seems to be deeply concerned about the problem, make an appointment to meet together and talk it over. It may be your opportunity to lead him or her toward spiritual growth.

If the group has no pressing questions, this could be an opportunity for you to emphasize an area of truth in unit 1 that means the most to you personally.

### **Break (5 mins.)**

If you are using the two-hour format, take a 5-minute break at this point. Suggest that some may wish to discuss the teachings informally.

### **Experiencing (20 mins.)**

1. *Reflection.* Ask members to reflect quietly on the questions on their review sheet and circle the one that was the greatest personal blessing or the most important new insight (1-2 mins.).

Now ask members to reflect quietly on the outline and draw a star beside the three greatest personal needs they sense in learning to live more effectively in the power of the Spirit (2-4 mins.).

2. *Sharing.* In quads, ask volunteers to share their responses to the reflection exercise above. After sufficient time, ask quads to discuss how their understanding of the Spirit and His role in their lives has changed as a result of unit 1.

Emphasize that sharing should be brief and to the point—not vague generalities like "God blessed me through this study." Rather, "I came to understand why I'm not growing as I should—I've been trying to do it on my own." Or, "My problem is I didn't know such a life existed or how to have it." Make sample responses of your own. Giving a few suggestions on what might be shared will be helpful (6-8 mins.).

3. Show video segment (optional). Note the next activity is singing. The second segment of the video each week will contain music that the group can join in singing. If your group is reticent about singing together, the video will help.
4. *Singing.* Sing together the theme chorus or hymn you have chosen or some other song chosen by the members. If no one in your group seems able to sing (highly unlikely!), do two things. Read the words of the hymn in unison and after the session inquire diligently for someone in the group who could learn the hymn before the next session and teach it to the group. Singing is a very important part of experiencing life in the Spirit. You know it's important—we'll be doing it through all eternity!

### **Responding (20 mins.)**

1. Point out that each week this time will be devoted to our personal commitment to the truths of our study. Ask members to bow their heads and prayerfully consider making a commitment to pursue life in the Spirit as a life-long experience. After a couple of minutes, say "Amen" to close the prayer time.
2. In quads, ask each person to share one way the others can pray for him or her. The request will probably be in line with the testimony given earlier but should not be limited to that. After a member shares, the other members should pray for that request immediately. Then the next member can share a request and the



others pray. Ask the group to continue praying until everyone has been prayed for. Tell the groups that a person doesn't have to pray aloud unless he or she wants to. As time goes on most members will feel comfortable praying in these groups of three or four people.

3. Suggest that members record in their journals the prayer requests given or other ways you feel you should be praying for fellow members. Remember these requests in your prayer times during the coming week.

**Covenant (small group, 10 mins.)**

Ask members to turn to page 222 in the member book and read aloud the group covenant. Pray about keeping the covenant. Join hands and pray that God will draw this group into a deeper fellowship with Him and with each other during the coming weeks. Ask each person to pray a one-sentence prayer asking for God's strength and guidance to complete the course and keep this covenant with the other group members. Explain that anyone who doesn't want to pray out loud should feel free to "pass" by simply squeezing the hand of the next person.

**Closure (5 mins.)**

1. Preview unit 2 (2 mins.). Give a brief preview of unit 2. Suggest that members jot down any questions they have at the end of their personal study of the unit and bring them to the small-group session.
2. *Closing prayer.* Offer a prayer of praise for the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and ask Him to be your Teacher through the coming week.

**AFTER THE SESSION**

1. Refer to the standard After the Session procedures.
2. If your group had more than 10 members, plan to divide it. Enlist another leader (preferably from those already in the group). If you cannot enlist another leader, consider dividing into 2 groups and meeting at different times during the week.

## GROUP SESSION 2

## DESIGNER MODEL

*Activity 1: Creating***BEFORE THE SESSION**

- Refer to standard Before the Session procedures.
- Gather the following items and include any others you need for activities you may have developed on your own:
  - a copy of unit 2 review quiz (handout 2a) for each member
  - prepare the unit review quiz on a transparency, chalkboard, or flipchart

**DURING THE SESSION**

Remember, each time you divide the small group into pairs or quads, give verbal instructions to everyone. If you think they need the help, write the instructions on a chalkboard or newsprint.

**Knowing (20 mins.)**

1. Ask for any written questions
2. Give each member a copy of Unit 2 Review Quiz (handout 2a) and instruct them to complete the worksheet (10 mins).
2. *Memory Work Review.* Divide into pairs for memory work. Remind members that by now they should quote the passage without prompting (5 mins.).
3. Show video segment (5 mins.).

**Understanding (40 mins.)**

1. Regather and ask for answers to the quiz, writing the consensus on the chart you have displayed. Here are my answers:
  1. *experiences life in the Spirit.* “Christlike in behavior” won’t do because we should be Christlike in attitudes and thoughts as well as behavior.
  2. *personal; one person of the godhead; uncreated; everywhere present; always present in every believer*
  3. Everything but *body*. Read through the list and get a show of hands on the characteristic members liked best or are most grateful for.
  4. *Loving oneness with God* or something similar. If someone says, “to be like Christ,” affirm this; but explain that we must mean by that more than a godly character, we must include being like Christ also in loving oneness with God.
  5. All but #2 and #5 because they both anticipate absolute perfection. If there is a difference of opinion on this, explain that there are different views; and we’ll study this in more detail later in unit 7. Read through the list, skipping #2 and #5. Ask for a show of hands on the one you most want the Spirit to accomplish in you during this course.
2. Divide into quads and instruct the groups to decide on what issue in the unit was most troublesome and what issue was most encouraging. If groups cannot easily identify the encouraging and troubling issues, invite them to discuss the two questions at the top of page 38. Look up Bible passages (from member book or personal knowledge) that provide answers. The recorder in each group should record main points of discussion.
3. Return to full group and ask each group spokesperson (recorder or quad leader or anyone designated by the group) to share their findings. At the conclusion of each presentation, give opportunity for group interaction.

**SESSION GOALS****Members will:**

- describe ways the Holy Spirit created us to be like God,
- identify the goal of creation and redemption
- summarize our potential as Christians
- begin to experience daily companionship with God
- commit to pursue life in the Spirit.

4. If any questions submitted in writing were not covered in previous discussion consider these at this point, beginning with the question most often submitted.

**Break (5 mins.)**

**Experiencing (20 mins.)**

1. *Sharing.* Remind group that at end of day 5 they were asked to prepare to share from their journals something special the Spirit has taught them or led them to experience. Explain that we need to keep our sharing to no more than two minutes each, so encourage them to speak directly to the point.
2. Show video segment (5 mins.).
3. *Singing.* Sing theme song or chorus.

**Responding (30 mins.)**

1. Explain that we want to have a time of thanksgiving and praise to the Holy Spirit for who He is and for what He has done in making us God-compatible and for what He is going to do in us. Emphasize that this is a time for thanksgiving and praise, not for petition. To lead a group of people to stick to praise and not slide over into requests of God will be very difficult, but don't give up! Week by week gently lead your group to the place where they will exult in times of sheer praise and thanksgiving. Today will be a good time to start by emphasizing that we want to concentrate on thanksgiving and praise. Assure them they will have time later to ask the Spirit to do things in their lives. Give 2-4 minutes for reflection on the requests you write on the overhead transparency or chalkboard. Suggest that they refer back to the outline of the unit or the quiz on the unit as a reminder. Write the following topics for your time of thanksgiving and praise:
  - *The person of the Holy Spirit* (day 2 or quiz #2)
  - *Our image* (days 3 and 4 or quiz #3 and #4)
  - *Our capacity/potential as image-bearers of God* (day 5 or quiz #5)
2. After reflection ask for volunteers to voice prayers of thanksgiving for each of the three praise items you listed (5-10 mins.).
3. After the praise time, lead the group in a time of silent prayer, asking the Spirit to do each of the following. After each request pause long enough for them to talk to God about it.
  - make me a truly spiritual person
  - help me understand the Holy Spirit and become an intimate friend of His
  - give me victory over (name of besetting temptation here)
  - help me grow each week into greater likeness to Jesus
  - gain from this course all He has in mind for me
  - bring Him joy today.

**Closure (5 mins.)**

1. Preview unit 3 (2 mins.). Remind members to jot down any questions they have at the end of their personal study of the unit and bring them to the small-group session.
2. *Closing prayer.* Begin by expressing your own desire, and then pray for the group as a whole.

**AFTER THE SESSION**

1. Refer to the standard After the Session procedures.
2. Plan for participant feedback. You will do your group members a service by modeling for them the principle of developing your spiritual gifts by securing evaluation. Use the evaluation form on page 16 to request members' evaluation.



## GROUP SESSION 3

## THE GREAT UNVEILING

*Activity 2: Revelation***BEFORE THE SESSION**

- Refer to the standard Before the Session procedures.
- Gather the following items and include any others you need for activities you have developed on your own:
  - copies of Unit 3 Review Quiz (handout 3a) and questionnaire (handout 3b)
  - Unit 3 Review Quiz prepared on a transparency, chalkboard, or flipchart for use in large group time
  - a familiar hymn or an appropriate contemporary chorus.

**DURING THE SESSION****Knowing (30 mins.)**

1. Distribute quiz for the day and collect any written questions members bring.
2. Divide into quads and seek a consensus on the answers to the quiz. (15 mins.).
3. *Memory Work Review*. Divide into pairs and review memory verses (10 mins.).
4. Show video segment (5 mins.).

**Understanding (30 mins.)**

Reconvene the entire group and work through the answers, asking for the consensus of each quad. Here are my answers:

1. False. Many truths are worth knowing that the Bible doesn't deal with; but all the truth we need to know about God, sin, and salvation, for example, are clearly revealed in Scripture.
2. False. A few parts of the Bible are words given directly by God, for example, the Ten Commandments; but most of Scripture is in the language of the human author, reflecting his vocabulary and personality. The Spirit guided the process so that what He wanted communicated was accurate.
3. True. Belief in what we read or hear is based on our believing the author is trustworthy.
4. True.
5. False. Though many treat Scripture as if everyone's interpretation is as good as the next person's, there is only one true interpretation.
6. False. "Illumination" describes the Spirit's work in the reader to help him or her understand the text. "Inspiration" is the term used of the Spirit's work in guiding the biblical author.
7. False. The Bible is supernatural in that it was so inspired by the Holy Spirit that what He wanted to communicate is communicated in straightforward language. His purpose is to reveal truth, not hide it. Though there is picture language in Scripture (figurative language), that too is subject to ordinary rules for understanding language.
8. False. Most of the Bible is clear to those who trust and intend to obey it. Bible believing Christians divide over the interpretation of a small minority of biblical teaching.
9. True.
10. False. We have two things to help us: the Holy Spirit Himself enlightens our minds (illumination) and Spirit-gifted people are given as teachers.
11. True. They might not willingly admit this, but choosing what to believe and

**SESSION GOALS**

Members will:

- describe what both inspiration and illumination do and do not mean
- identify the four major ways God reveals His will for us in the Bible
- understand how different approaches affect one's interpretation, especially how "trust and obey" are prerequisites for understanding and applying the Bible
- grow in appreciation for the Spirit's gift of Scripture and His presence to guide us in understanding it.

what not to believe or obey, is putting personal judgment as the final authority above God's revealed truth.

12. True. Therefore a good degree of modesty about my understanding of difficult or disputed passages is appropriate. Inspiration yields infallibility, illumination does not. Also, I should not be intimidated by those whose interpretation differs from the plain meaning of Scripture, no matter how impressive their credentials.
13. True.
14. False. There may be seven or more ways, depending on how you divide them, but we looked at four important ways to discern God's will in the Bible. Ask members to name them. (Principles, commands, examples of Bible characters—both good and bad, and Jesus' life).
15. True. Therefore, we must be on guard and work hard at finding the intended meaning and not read into the text something from our tradition, culture, or preference. We shall try to do this throughout our study of *Life in the Spirit*.

If any of the questions submitted in advance have not been considered, discuss them now as time permits. If you're running short of time, invite the person who presented the question(s) to see you after the session.

#### **Break (5 mins.)**

Suggest they should feel free to continue the discussion during the break.

#### **Experiencing (35 mins.)**

1. Divide into quads and encourage any member who has struggled with doubts about the trustworthiness of Scripture (or some part of it) or anyone who is now wrestling with the issue to share the story with fellow quad members (10 mins.).
2. While still divided into quads, distribute handout 3b. Instruct members to respond to each item (3-5 mins.). Then ask them to share what they have written and see if others in the group agree with that analysis (20 mins.).

#### **Responding (15 mins.)**

1. Remain in quads and pray:
  - for faith to trust and obey the Bible, especially for those still with doubts
  - for Holy Spirit illumination as we study Scripture in this course
2. Play the second segment of the optional video.
3. Reconvene, distribute the chosen hymn or chorus and sing together in praise of God's wonderful gift of the written revelation of Himself.
4. *Praise time.* Spend a few minutes on each of the following topics, suggesting a new topic after several have led in prayer for the last topic presented:
  - Thank the Holy Spirit for revealing all the truth we need to experience God
  - Thank the Holy Spirit for a trustworthy Bible
  - Thank the Holy Spirit that He is our guide in understanding and applying the Bible

#### **Closure (5 mins.)**

1. Preview unit 4 (2 mins.).
2. *Closing prayer.* Express your own concerns, and then pray for the group.

#### **AFTER THE SESSION**

1. Refer to the standard After the Session procedures.
2. If you used student evaluations last week review the responses and see if the changes you made improved this session. Write out any changes that you intend to make next time.

## GROUP SESSION 4

## A NEW CREATION

*Activity 3: Redeeming***BEFORE THE SESSION**

- Refer to the standard Before the Session procedures.
- Gather the following items:
  - a copy of the Unit 4 Review Quiz for each member (handout 4a)
  - the words to the hymn, “When I Survey The Wondrous Cross.”

**DURING THE SESSION****Knowing and Understanding (55 mins.)**

For today’s group session I’ve combined “Knowing” and “Understanding” because we’re dealing with basic truths familiar to most Christians. These truths require special emphasis. The group will explore how the truths relate to the activity of the Holy Spirit.

1. Ask if members have questions they want to have clarified during today’s session. Members should have these prepared ahead of time in writing, but if not invite them to jot their questions down now.
2. As members arrive, give them a copy of the Unit 4 Review Quiz (handout 4-a). Instruct them to answer only question 1. You will give them instructions as a group for completing questions 2 and 3 of the review.
3. After members have arrived and had a few minutes to complete question 1, lead the group to brainstorm answers to question 1. The group may give all eight activities of the Spirit as covered in the unit, or they may give variations of the described activities. From the list suggested by the members, identify the five core activities related to the ministry of Jesus: empowered Jesus’ ministry, accomplished Jesus’ death, the conception of Jesus, convicts us of sin, and regeneration. Next give members 5 minutes to complete questions 2 and 3 in the review questions.
 

Ask members to discuss their answers to review questions 2 and 3 with their memory work partner. Give an additional 5 minutes to discuss the answers.
4. *Memory Work Review.* While divided into pairs, quote memory verse (2 mins.).
5. Return to large group and ask for volunteers to name the activities of the Holy Spirit in order. List them on the chalkboard or transparency. Discuss any questions that remain plus any questions that were submitted to you ahead of class (20 mins.).

My answers to review question 2 are as follows:

1. Jesus’ conception by the Spirit comes first because none of the rest could occur without the incarnation.
2. Jesus’ ministry (teaching and healing could be divided or combined) and life in the power of the Spirit because without this He could not die as a sinless sacrifice in our stead—He would have to die for His own sin.
3. Jesus’ death by the Spirit to provide for our salvation, without which the conviction of sin would be meaningless torment and regeneration impossible.
4. Conviction of sin by the Spirit which precedes repentance and faith, both of which are required for regeneration.
5. Regeneration, the Holy Spirit’s “recreation” of the believing sinner who cries out for salvation. (Note: Some members of your group may be of the theological persuasion that says the Spirit regenerates before a person is able to believe. If this comes up, allow for that difference.)

**SESSION GOALS**

Members will:

- evaluate whether they have received salvation through Jesus Christ;
- describe the activities of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of Jesus;
- express the guilt and pain of any unconfessed sin;
- describe the wonder of transformation into a new person.

**Break (5 mins.)**

**Experiencing (30 mins.)**

1. Read each verse of the hymn, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" in unison and pause briefly for reflection between each verse.
2. *Testimony time.*
  - a. Ask for volunteers to share briefly their conversion experience (a few sentences, not the whole history).
  - b. Ask for volunteers to share specific ways in which they found themselves transformed into what they weren't before—and couldn't have been!
  - c. Ask for volunteers to share an experience of conviction of sin and repentance. Also, some might have had an experience of a sense of guilt when not actually guilty. If someone shares such an experience, ask for the way he came to understand he was not guilty.
3. Show video segment (5 mins.).
4. *Singing.* Sing together the hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

**Responding (25 mins.)**

1. Lead the group in a time of silent prayer. Guide members to pray for the following:
  - a. Think of some sin the Holy Spirit has been convicting you of lately, even now. Confess it and ask forgiveness. Thank Him for Jesus' blood that atoned for that very sin. Tell Him how sorry you are for causing Him pain. Allow at least 2 minutes for silent prayer.
  - b. Think of several changes you couldn't have made on your own. Thank Him for transforming you into a different kind of person. Allow time for reflection and prayer.
  - c. Ask, Have you ever repented and trusted God to forgive you on the merits of Christ and make you His child? If you've never done that or you aren't sure that you have, do it now as we silently pray together. You might pray something like this: "Father, I've sinned against You and don't deserve to be Your child. Please forgive me and make me Your child. Thank You. I now give my whole life over to You and ask You to take charge and remake me into Your own image. I trust You to keep Your word and save me for all eternity."
2. Close the prayer with a time of thanksgiving; seek to voice the sentiments your group expressed as they prayed silently. After praying, ask the group if any prayed to receive Christ. Tell them, "If you've prayed such a prayer, Jesus said the angels in heaven are throwing a great celebration" (Luke 15:10). We want to rejoice with you, too. Invite any members who prayed to receive Christ to share their decision with the group. Allow time for members to respond. If one or more share, ask for volunteers to pray for the those who have made or confirmed their decision.

**Closure (5 mins.)**

1. Preview unit 5 (2 mins.). Suggest that members jot down any questions they have at the end of their personal study of the unit and bring them to the next small-group session.
2. *Closing prayer.* Offer a prayer of praise for the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and ask Him to be our teacher through the coming week.

**AFTER THE SESSION**

Refer to the standard After the Session procedures.

## GROUP SESSION 5

## INDWELLING: FAITH AND OBEDIENCE

*Activity 4: Indwelling***BEFORE THE SESSION**

- Refer to the standard Before the Session procedures.
- Gather four sheets of newsprint with the headings found in handout 5a

**DURING THE SESSION****Arrival Activity (10 mins.)**

1. Collect any written questions members may have.
2. As members arrive ask them to complete each sentence in handout 5a.
3. *Memory Work Review.* Instruct members to complete memory work as their partners arrive.

**Knowing (20 mins.)**

1. Show video segment (5 mins.).
2. Ask each of the following questions of the group. List answers on a transparency or chalkboard as they voice them; then discuss and/or vote on an answer before moving to the next question.
  - a. As a believer, who lives inside you?
  - b. What am I saying about God when I don't trust Him?
  - c. What is the relationship between "trust" and "obedience"?
  - d. What's so bad about disobedience? Follow-up question, what does it do to me?
  - e. How does the purpose of law in the life of a non-believer differ from the purpose of law for a believer?

In the discussion, try to lead the members to recall the following teachings from this unit:

- a. All three members of the Trinity live in me.
- b. When I don't trust God I call into question His character, especially His wisdom, power, or love.
- c. Trust and obedience are two aspects of saving and sanctifying faith. To be saved a person needs to repent and believe; to grow, a Christian must yield and trust. Some believe that repentance (in the unbeliever) and yielding (in the believer) are not part of faith but the necessary evidence of true faith. Either way, to be connected with God in a close relationship we need both.
- d. Disobedience disconnects. Disobedience does not disconnect us from God's saving grace, but it always puts distance between us and God—"breaking fellowship." No possibility of a close connection exists for the disobedient child of God. (Some might indicate how disobedience affects God, which is OK even if we covered that in #2).
- e. For the non-believer the law condemns—it's God's method of leading persons to see their need of salvation. For the believer, however, "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus," (Rom. 8:1); but we still need the law. It's God's will for us, describing the goal—to be like Him. In that sense the law is a light on our spiral up, showing us the right way and the wrong way. You might say the law is a light over the mirror to show us how sinful we are when out of Christ. It becomes a headlight for those in Christ to see the way to go.

**SESSION GOALS****Members will:**

- describe the hurt God feels when we refuse to trust Him
- identify what unbelief does to the Christian
- commit to experience obedience as an aspect of faith
- understand the place of law in the life of a believer
- express gratitude for God's law.



**Understanding (35 mins.)**

1. Divide into quads and have each group seek a consensus on each pair of questions they answered on arrival. (10 mins.)
2. Regather and have each group report their choices for interaction by the whole group (20 mins.). Be sure the following emphases come through clearly and that any questions submitted on arrival are covered. Whenever a written question isn't addressed in class be sure to contact the person later and try to meet his or her concern.
  - a. "For Christ to be in me means ..." In some mysterious way Christ is present in my body, but our emphasis in this unit is that His indwelling means the relationship has the potential of being very close.
  - b. "For me to be in Christ means ..." To be in Christ has a judicial aspect in that He is the substitute for me, taking the judgment due me; but, like Christ being in me, my being in Him also emphasizes the intimate relationship I now have. Both "in's" are the in's of fellowship.
  - c. "What I like about the law is ..." Law is necessary to show us what we'll be like when we're like Jesus, so it's as welcome as a flashlight on a dark path. If I don't love it, I must have trouble with obedience. Or I could be misusing it—allowing it to stand in condemnation of me like an unbeliever, or trying to obey it to become acceptable to God. We are acceptable to God on the merits of Christ alone. But the law now serves as a guide for Christian living, giving us concrete instruction on how our love for God and others will prompt us to think and behave.
  - d. We can know clearly whether we're connected with God by our obedience. But a close connection, intimate companionship and a sense of oneness with Him depend on our trust in Him. The obedience we can choose or refuse and in that sense we're either "connected" or not. Obedience is the evidence of genuine faith. But in trust we grow through companionship with God, "keeping step with the Spirit" as we experience His work in our lives.
3. Now is the time to review the first five units to be sure members see the connections among them, the development of our theme of *Life in the Spirit* (10 mins.). To prepare for this exercise, a quick review can be found in unit 1. Point to the unit titles on your course outline and ask how each prepares for or relates to the next. One way to do this would be to review the activities of the Holy Spirit. Point out on the course map the place of each activity.
  - a. The Spirit created us in God's image (unit 2) so we can love and be loved by Him, but we broke that bond of love by choosing our own way. In this we lost our way and stumbled downward toward ever greater destruction, but...
  - b. God revealed a way back by showing us what He is like and how we can return (unit 3). The Spirit did this through prophets and apostles in the Bible. But He did more than that.
  - c. The Spirit was instrumental in each step of Jesus' incarnation, providing for our salvation; and it is He who convicts us of our need of a Savior, of our need to make the big turn-around and trust Him. Whether faith comes first or regeneration, the Holy Spirit is the one who makes us into altogether new people—once again God-compatible. Even more, He comes to live with us in person (unit 4). Problem is, we may not stay in a close relationship with Him, so we need...
  - d. To yield again to His absolute rule. We must trust Him (unit 5) to begin again the transforming work, spiraling us up toward greater likeness to Jesus and closer companionship with Him. We'll look more closely at that activity of the Spirit in unit 6.

**Break (5 mins.)****Experiencing (25 mins.)**

1. Sing a familiar hymn such as "Trust and Obey" or "Faith Is the Victory."
2. Ask for a show of hands on who has had an experience of "re-connecting," coming back into a close relationship with God after drifting or rebellion.
3. Ask for any who would share briefly that experience. Don't let the time get away from you here! If your group is quite vocal (some members are) you might suggest they give a summary of their experience in a few sentences.
4. *Singing.* Sing a praise hymn like "Abide with Me," or a chorus like "Sweet, Sweet, Spirit."

**Responding (20 mins.)**

1. Show video segment (5 mins.).
2. *Guided private prayer (7 mins.).*
  - a. Ask members to meet with God in making a commitment or reaffirming a commitment to yield unconditionally to His will. Suggest that if they have had some barrier to fellowship with God they be specific in telling God exactly what it is.
  - b. Ask members to reflect on how they felt when someone they loved didn't trust them. Pause for a few moments, then suggest they tell the Lord how sorry they are for hurting Him by doubting His wisdom, power, or love. Suggest that they name the specific matter in which they struggled with doubt and the specific characteristic of God they questioned.
  - c. Now lead them to thank God for His wisdom, power, and love and ask for daily growth in trusting.
  - d. Now ask members to express aloud prayers of gratitude for God's presence within, for who He is (3-5 mins.). Suggest that they mention specific things about God for which they are grateful. One way to do this would be to suggest that people pray a single sentence or even just a single word of praise, feeling free to pray again and again as the Spirit lifts their spirits in exalting God.

**Closure (5 mins.)**

1. Preview unit 6 (2 mins.).
2. *Closing prayer.* Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the glorious life of intimate companionship with Him that the Spirit promises.

**AFTER THE SESSION**

Refer to the standard After the Session procedures.

## GROUP SESSION 6

### SPIRALING UP

#### Activity 5: Transforming

#### SESSION GOALS

Members will:

- affirm that they have made the “turn around”
- express their commitment to the devotional life by planning for improving their time spent with God
- reevaluate the role of the church in their personal growth
- identify the two most basic reasons for personal pain: God’s glory and my growth.

#### BEFORE THE SESSION

- Refer to the standard Before the Session procedures.
- Gather the following items and include any others you need for activities you may have developed:
  - copies of Unit 6 Review Quiz (handout 6a) and Concept Analysis (handout 6b) for each member

#### DURING THE SESSION

##### Knowing (25 mins.)

1. Collect any written questions members brought with them.
2. Give each member a copy of Unit 6 Review Quiz (handout 6a) and ask them to answer these while others are arriving.
3. Show video (5 mins.).
4. Allow about 10 minutes for completing the review and then go over the answers to 1-3 (5 mins.), putting them on the overhead or chalkboard as the group responds.
  1. Any word that means a turning will do, words like repentance, reconsecration, yielding to God. Be sure they understand that this is true of anyone, believer or unbeliever, who would follow Jesus. Without that unconditional yes of the heart, there can be no genuine spiritual growth.
  2. We discussed the Bible, prayer, church, and suffering as means of grace. If any members leave off *suffering* or *adversity* as a means of growth, now would be a great opportunity to point out that hardship can actually provide the fast track for growth.
  3. Ignorance, unyieldedness (through either drift or rebellion), and unbelief (lack of trust). Synonyms will do, of course.
4. *Memory Work Review*. Divide into pairs for memory passage review (3 mins.).

##### Understanding (30 mins.)

1. Distribute the Concept Analysis exercise (handout 6b) and allow members 7 minutes to answer. Allow at least 10-15 minutes to interact on these questions designed to help members understand the implications of what we’ve been thinking about. Here are my answers:
  1. I marked all of them false. Either true or false is OK for item c, but we want to emphasize that surrender is a decision. On item d remind them of the memory verse, “make every effort to add to your faith ....” Faith, though some must be present, is something we must grow all our lives. Also, on the surrender side, you could say we grow in understanding new areas to surrender and in strength to overcome. But we need to emphasize the basic orientation that it’s either yes to God or no when it comes to yielding to His will. It will be helpful if members focus on a decision for surrender and growth in faith or trust. The key word in item e is behavior. We must grow in Christlike attitudes as well as in Christlike behavior. But even more important we must remind our people that the ultimate goal is loving oneness with God, not merely good conduct. Good behavior is not the final goal.
  2. Faith.
  3. I didn’t strike out any—trouble can come from any of those sources.



4. Though any of those in the list may sometimes be in God's purpose, those always present are the glory of God and my growth toward Christlikeness.

### Break (5 mins.)

### Experiencing (30 mins.)

1. Divide into quads and ask members (those who wish to) to read their answer to #4 of review quiz—their own story of spiraling up (up to 8 mins.).
2. Return to full group and invite those who will to share one or two experiences from their lives—
  - a “turnaround” experience or
  - a “blessed adversity” experience—some heartache or pain that God turned into an opportunity to display His power in delivering or in giving strength to endure. Or how some suffering brought about spiritual growth (15 mins.).
3. *Singing.* Sing a familiar hymn like “I Surrender All,” “Have Thine own Way, Lord,” or a chorus like “He is Lord.”

### Responding (20 mins.)

1. Show video (5 mins.).
2. Private prayer (5 mins.). This time of prayer should be guided by the leader. Following each suggestion, give members time to pray concerning that issue. Lead the group to pray about—
  - Surrender—Make sure you have chosen to turn your life over to God or reaffirm that commitment.
  - Commitment to faithful devotional time each day. Ask forgiveness for failure if needed.
  - Gratitude for the church and renewal of the vows you made at baptism. Commitment to being accountable, perhaps beginning an accountability partner relationship.
  - Acceptance of any present pain or adversity in faith that God is in it. Give thanks for the outcome He promises, if not for the sorrow itself.
3. Divide into quads and suggest each one share in turn any concern coming from this unit's activities—strength needed to change, gratitude for specific new light, hope for accelerated growth pattern. After each one shares, the person to his or her left or right should pray briefly for that request.

### Closure (10 mins.)

1. Read in unison the original covenant signed in the first session.
2. Preview unit 7 (2 mins.).
3. *Closing prayer.* Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the glorious life the Spirit provides.

## AFTER THE SESSION

Refer to the standard After the Session procedures.

## GROUP SESSION 7

## EXPECTATIONS

## SESSION GOALS

Unlike previous sessions, the goal of this session is primarily understanding.

Members will:

- describe what they can expect from living life in the Spirit
- determine biblical definitions of sin, perfection, victory, faith.

## BEFORE THE SESSION

- Refer to the standard Before the Session procedures.
- Gather the following items and include any others you need for activities you may have developed on your own:
  - a copy of the Unit 7 Review Quiz (handout 7a) for each member
  - a copy of the Biblical Balance Chart (handout 7b) for each member
  - a flipchart, chalkboard, or markerboard with *Varieties of Sin* written at the top and three columns with the headings:
    1. *deliberate or willful*; 2. *unintentional*; 3. *resulting from slavery*.
  - a flipchart, chalkboard, or poster displaying the outline for victorious Christian living: *God's Standard, God's Provision, and My Responsibility*.

## DURING THE SESSION

## Knowing (25 mins.)

1. Collect any questions members have written out and brought with them. Give each person a copy of the Unit 7 review questions (handout 7a).
2. *Memory Work Review*. Instruct members to pair off when they have completed the review questions and review all the memory work from units 1-7.
3. Show video (5 mins.).

## Understanding (60 mins.)

1. Reconvene the group and note the answers to the review on the chalkboard or transparency, referring back to days 5, 3, or 4 if necessary. For activities of the Spirit, point out how each fits in the course outline.
2. Point to the short summary course outline on a transparency or chalkboard. You will remember we began in unit 1 with this outline for the victorious Christian life:
  - God's Standard (for Christian Living),
  - God's Provision (for Christian Living),
  - My responsibility (to appropriate that provision).

Ask the group for one-word definitions of each and write the answers beside the statements. (Our standard is either God or Jesus; Our provision is the (Holy) Spirit; My responsibility is faith.)
3. State, Successful Christian living must involve a balanced view of these resources. To describe God's standard, God's provision, and my responsibility in a balanced way is difficult. Here is an exercise that asks you to identify some examples of imbalanced thinking and then to write a statement of balance. Please take 5-10 minutes to complete the exercise. Distribute handout 7b and point out how each expectancy relates to the course summary outline you've just noted.

## Break (5 mins.)

4. Reconvene and ask what quads concluded regarding biblical balance in expectations. Lead members to share their statements. If possible write a consensus statement of expectation under each category before reading my statement.
  1. My responses for #1 were: a, H; b, L; c, L; d, H. For my statement, I wrote:

“God’s plan is for me to spiral up into greater likeness to Jesus in my attitudes and actions. In the conscious choices, the new me with the indwelling Spirit’s power can consistently choose right.”

2. My responses for #2 were: a, SE; b, NE; c, NE; d, SE. For my statement I wrote: “I don’t have what it takes to live successfully, so the Holy Spirit provides all the resources for this victory and growth. But He expects me to work with Him in faithfully using the means of grace.
3. My responses for #3 were: a, P; b, F; c, P; d, F. For my statement I wrote: “Sanctifying faith is trusting God to do what He has promised, not what He hasn’t promised; and then acting on that in obedience, not simply resigning myself to my fate.”
5. Lead the group in completing the following exercise designed to help distinguish the three varieties of sin for which we have different expectancies: (a) deliberate or willful, (b) unintentional, (c) resulting from slavery. (15 mins.)  
On a flipchart, chalkboard, or markerboard write *Varieties of Sin* at the top and make three columns with these headings:  
1. deliberate or willful; 2. unintentional; 3. resulting from slavery  
Call out each of the following words and list each under one of the three columns as participants give answers (I have included my answers in parentheses):  
willful (1)                      inadvertent (2)                      premeditated (1)  
planned (1)                      involuntary (3)                      unwitting (2)  
unknown (2)                      impulse (3)                      choice (1)  
sins of disposition (2 or 3)
6. If any of the questions or problems members submitted on arrival at the session have not been covered in the discussions thus far, consider them now before going on.

#### Experiencing (5 mins.)

*Singing.* Sing a familiar hymn on victory and hope like “Faith is the Victory” or a chorus like “In the Name of Jesus.”

#### Responding (20 mins)

1. Show video (5 mins.).
2. Divide into quads. Invite members to share whether they asked someone the question, “If you could change one thing about me, what would it be?” If the quads have bonded sufficiently by now, perhaps those who didn’t ask anyone that question would like to reflect on why they didn’t and share that reason with the others.
3. The time of prayer should be thanksgiving for the expectations God has given us (5 mins.) and intercession for God to give the victory (5 mins.). If the small group has bonded well, they could pray specifically about what they’re trusting God to give victory in.

#### Closure (5 mins.)

1. Preview unit 8 (2 mins.).
2. *Closing prayer.* Close with a prayer of thanksgiving for the glorious life the Spirit provides.

#### AFTER THE SESSION

Refer to the standard After the Session procedures.

## GROUP SESSION 8

### FILLED FULL

#### Activity 6: Filling

#### SESSION GOALS

Members will:

- describe the three meanings of *full*
- evaluate their fullness in the first meaning of the term (unconditional lordship)
- express their desire and hope for being filled in the second meaning of the term (abundant crop of fruit and power in ministry)
- build an awareness of fullness in the third meaning of the term (a strong subjective sense of His presence)
- commit to pray for revival.

#### BEFORE THE SESSION

- Refer to the standard Before the Session procedures.
- Gather the following items and include any others you need for activities you may have developed:
  - copies of the Unit 8 Review Quiz (handout 8a), Concept Analysis Quiz (handout 8b), and Prayer Guide (handout 8c) for each member

#### DURING THE SESSION

##### Knowing (20 mins.)

1. Collect any written questions members brought with them.
2. Give members a copy of Unit 8 Review Quiz (handout 8a) and ask them to answer these while others are arriving.
3. *Memory Work Review.* When they have completed the review, instruct them to pair off and review the memory verses for unit 8.
4. Show video (5 mins.).

Be sure all members can recall the three meanings before moving on to Understanding.

##### Understanding (20 mins.)

1. Distribute the Unit 8 Concept Analysis Quiz (handout 8b). Allow 3-4 minutes to write answers, and then ask members to divide into pairs and discuss their answers (allow 5 mins.). Then regroup and ask for answers from the group. Interact on each answer and consider any questions that haven't been dealt with (10 mins.). My answers would be:
  1. False. Others best judge whether my life reflects Christlike characteristics. Though I should regularly evaluate my own growth and try to be honest about it, I may be the poorest judge. In fact, if I feel I'm full of fruit it could be evidence of the opposite—pride!
  2. True. Revival means to have life again, so it refers first of all to those who have life and in whom the fire may have died down—Christians. We usually use the term to refer to what happens to a group of believers, though the same could be said of an individual.
  3. True. Give a word of encouragement to have this hope for themselves personally.
  4. True. This experience happened often to the early disciples—these Spirit-filled people were said to be “filled.” A mystery remains in the term *filled*, after all our study and analysis.
  5. False. The first and last meanings—unconditional yieldedness and inner feelings—are the only two the person can know for sure. Others, however, are the best judge of whether a person is full of fruit or gifts, the second meaning of the term.
  6. True. Not only true, but the only place fullness can begin. Yielding unstops the flow of the Spirit's full power.
  7. False. Point out on the course outline how most of the course thus far has been about our growth in greater likeness to Christ in the way we think and behave. Instead of your giving the answers, you might ask members to describe how each unit you point to is related to fruit.

**Experiencing (40 mins.)**

1. *Reflection.* Invite members to tell something supernatural they have observed in the life or ministry of someone else in the group. If that moves slowly, broaden the invitation to include anyone in their church they have observed (5-7 mins.).
2. *Testimony time.* (20 mins.) Ask members to tell briefly some experience they have had of fullness in any of the three senses of full: 1) turning life over to God unconditionally, 2) special victory over temptation or surge of power in ministry, and 3) inner sense of God's presence so strong the joy or some other emotion can't be described. You were so full you felt you'd overflow—and maybe you did with tears, song, or words of praise.
3. *Singing.* Sing a familiar hymn like "Revive Us Again," or a chorus like "Search Me, O God."

**Break (5 mins.)****Responding (30 mins.)**

1. Show video (5 mins.).
2. Distribute the Prayer Guide for the prayer time and instruct the leader of each quad to move to the next suggested item for prayer when it seems appropriate. Divide into quads for prayer after you lead them in #1.

**Closure (5 mins.)**

1. Preview unit 9 (2 mins.).
2. *Closing prayer.* Close with prayer of thanksgiving for the glorious hope of being constantly filled with the Spirit.

**AFTER THE SESSION**

Refer to the standard After the Session activities.

## GROUP SESSION 9

## BATTLE PLAN

## Activity 7: Overcoming

## SESSION GOALS

Members will:

- recall causes of temptation and root sins;
- describe defensive and offensive use of the Bible, prayer, and the church;
- express growing hope that they can overcome temptation.

## BEFORE THE SESSION

- Refer to the standard Before the Session procedures.
- Gather or prepare the following items:
  - one slip of paper with each of the following words or phrases: Inner desires, impulses, lust, God, Satan, covetousness, desire to enjoy, circumstances, pride, desire to have, other people, unbelief, desire to be significant, self love
  - 3 columns on the chalkboard, newsprint, or a transparency with the following headings: 1. Sources of Temptation, 2. Root Sins, 3. Neither Source nor Root
  - the chart on strategy that appears under Understanding

## DURING THE SESSION

## Knowing (20 mins.)

1. Collect any written questions members brought with them.
2. Give each member one or two of the slips of paper you prepared. Ask them to place each slip under one of the three columns: 1. Sources of Temptation, 2. Root Sins, 3. Neither Source nor Root.
3. *Memory Work Review.* When they have placed their word or words under one of the columns, instruct them to pair off and review the memory verses for unit 9.
4. Ask if members agreed on what has been put under each of the three columns. Discuss any differences of opinion to be sure all members know the possibilities.

Here are my answers:

<i>Sources of Temptation</i>	<i>Root Sins</i>	<i>Neither a Source or a Root Sin</i>
Inner desires, impulses	lust	God
Satan	covetousness	desire to enjoy
circumstances	pride	desire to have
other people	unbelief	desire to be significant
	self-love	self-love

Note that self-love could be under *Root Sins* or *Neither*, depending on other factors. Loving oneself is no sin; but when love for self overrides love for God or others, it becomes a root sin, perhaps the basic sin from which all others grow.

5. Show video (5 mins.).

## Understanding (45 mins.)

To help understand the battle strategy, work through a case study. First tell this story: Mary didn't have supper ready on time, and Jim blew up again. Jim has a habit of losing his temper when things don't go his way. Without checking to see why Mary was running late, he assumed she was at fault. He wants to stop this kind of reaction to his wife. What should he do?

1. What good start has he already made? (He really wants God's will, knows he is sinning and admits it, at least to himself.)
2. Jim needs to identify the source of his temptation. From where is it coming? Let group give answers and write them on chalkboard or transparency.
  - *Mary.* (Doesn't help much in solving the problem. If Jim concentrates on Mary, he will excuse or rationalize his behavior and fail to grow!)
  - *Circumstances.* (Obviously so, especially if he had a hard day at the office or if he brought his boss home for supper. Still, that doesn't do much to solve his temper problem since there will always be aggravating circumstances.)



- *Satan.* (Maybe so, particularly if the enemy has an interest in destroying that home or in exploiting Jim's weak spot to bring him down spiritually.)
  - *God.* (He may be tempted to blame God for letting him marry this woman or giving him a father with a short fuse. God isn't the source of temptation. He has permitted it, for at least two reasons: His glory, and Jim's growth.)
  - *Himself.* (This is the bottom line. If Jim didn't respond out of what's on the inside, none of the other sources could have tempted him successfully. Point out that blame-laying and finger-pointing—finding the source outside himself—may not help much. So move on to the next source—what is the root sin that lies behind his losing his temper with his wife?)
3. What possible reasons or root sins cause Jim to blow up? Ask members for answers, writing them down. It would help for them to explain their answers.
- *Lust.* (Perhaps Jim has an attractive secretary who is interested in him. The closer he gets to her, the more Mary is dissatisfying to him.)
  - *Covetousness.* (He just bought a boat, was hoping for a raise to cover the payments, and brought his boss home for supper to impress him.)
  - *Pride.* (It hurts to admit his problem with temper and self-centeredness.)
  - *Unbelief.* (Certainly a factor—he's not trusting God to help him love his wife, and he's not trusting the Spirit to direct Mary.)
  - *Self-love.* (Jim just plain loves himself more than he loves his wife, doesn't want to be inconvenienced, doesn't care about her feelings.)
- Point out that if Jim is to wage war on his temper, he needs to identify one or more root causes and attack those—not just the nasty temper. Maybe he isn't altogether sure about the source or the root of his temptation, however. Can he still win out? How?
4. What should he do? On a markerboard or tearsheet write the two headings: offensive strategies and defensive strategies. Ask members to brainstorm possible actions Jim can take to deal with his temper. (See pages 156-163).

### Break (5 mins.)

### Experiencing (30 mins.)

Divide into quads and invite members to share the personal strategy they developed in day 5. When the groups seem to be winding down or when the time is up, bring them together and encourage them to follow through on their beginning and develop a full-blown strategy. Have them set a specific time to work on their plan.

### Responding (15 mins.)

1. Show video (5 mins.).
2. *Singing.* Sing a hymn like, "Soldiers of Christ Arise," "My Soul Be on Your Guard," "Victory In Jesus," or "I Surrender All."
3. Ask members to pray aloud for themselves and for one another, asking for victory in the battle against temptation, especially those temptations which have been winning out. Claim the victory in prayer!

### Closure (5 mins.)

1. Preview unit 10 (2 mins.).
2. *Closing prayer.* Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the victory we can have in the battle.

## AFTER THE SESSION

Refer to the standard After the Session procedures.

## GROUP SESSION 10

# THE SPIRIT'S GIFTS

### Activity 8: Gifting

#### SESSION GOALS

Members will:

- describe the relationship between the gifts of the Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit, the tasks in the church, the offices in the church, and natural talents
- identify gift needs in their church(es)
- develop or increase their desire for a greater ministry or greater ministry effectiveness
- begin or continue the process of developing their Spirit-given abilities

#### BEFORE THE SESSION

- Refer to the standard Before the Session procedures.
- Gather the following items and include any others you need for activities you have developed.
  - For the following activity, I have assembled a representative list of seven spiritual gifts. Prepare slips of paper, each with one of the seven gifts. The ability to—
    1. teach the Bible
    2. win people to Christ
    3. meet human needs
    4. counsel
    5. preach with authority
    6. lead effectively
    7. administrate
  - Write on a tearsheet, or marker board as follows:

*Strongly expressed in my church*

*Weakly expressed in my church*

worship  
fellowship  
discipleship  
ministry  
evangelism  
all the purposes

- Supply pins, tape, chalk, or markers to write or attach the slips to the chart.
- Make copies of handouts 10a and 10b.
- Secure a copy of *Experiencing God* workbook.

#### DURING THE SESSION

**Knowing (25 mins.)**

1. Collect any written questions members brought.
2. Give each member a gift name. If you have more than seven members, you'll need to make duplicates of some gift or gifts. Depending on the medium you use, provide pins, tape, chalk, or markers. Instruct members to place or write the gift names on the list of purposes of the church where they are needed to accomplish that purpose. Instruct them to place the gift to the side of the chart that indicates the gift is either strongly or weakly expressed in their church.
3. *Memory work review.* When members have attached their gifts, instruct them to pair off and review the memory verses for unit 10 and the previous memory verses.
4. Show video (5 mins.).
5. Seek a group consensus on the following questions. Tell them it's an "open book" quiz—they can check their workbook for answers.
  1. *Are all gifts of equal importance? What is your reason for that answer?*  
Possible answers include:
    - a. In 1 Corinthians 12 and 14 the Bible teaches the gifts are of very different importance. Some are more valuable than others to God in fulfilling His purposes in the church and in the world.
    - b. The most important gift for me is the one God has given me or would give me.
    - c. The most important thing for the church is for all members to fulfill the function God designed for them.

2. *What is more important than any gift? (1 Cor. 12:31–13:3)*
3. *Does a great gift mean great spirituality?* (Probe this one—the relationship between “fruit” and “gift” and the fact that “spirituality” refers to fruit. Point out on the course outline how the subjects have been about personal growth toward greater likeness to Jesus.)
4. *Does a great gift mean great reward?* (Reward is based on faithfulness, including faithfulness with one’s gift. Faithfulness is a “fruit.”)
5. *How do we know what gifts are available?*
  - a. The Bible lists gifts and examples (you may want to point out four gift lists in the New Testament listed on page 174. However, not many are defined in Scripture.)
  - b. Needs the church has to fulfill its purposes. (If we seek the Spirit-given ability to meet the need and fulfill the purpose, we may find the giftedness God supplies includes natural talent, experience, and learning, as well as identifiable spiritual gifts. All abilities are, in the final analysis, gifts the Spirit supplies.)
6. *What are some ways I can develop my gift?* In each of the following, ask for any available examples members might be acquainted with:
  - a. involvement—try it out
  - b. apprentice/mentor
  - c. literature/media
  - d. special training
  - e. interchurch seminars
  - f. formal training

#### **Understanding (20 mins.)**

1. Distribute copies of handout 10a, the purposes of the church and gifts that contribute to those purposes. Seek a consensus on which gifts go with which purpose, helping members understand the relationship between gift and purpose.
2. Explain that for purpose of discussion we have used the seven examples I supplied. Now broaden the discussion to include all the gifts included in the New Testament gift lists. Refer to page 174 as necessary. Seek to lead the group to identify the ministry purpose of the gifts and relate the gifts to the ministry of the church.

#### **Break (5 mins.)**

#### **Experiencing (40 mins.)**

1. Refer back to the original responses members gave on the purposes-of-the-church chart. Seek a consensus among members as to which purposes are being achieved in their church and which need the strength of additional gifts to achieve them. If your group is from different churches, divide into same-church groups for this exercise. Otherwise, do it all together. (10 mins.)
 

If the group reaches agreement on certain needs, ask for suggestions on what to do about it. Possible answers include:

  - We need to seek out people who might fill the gaps or who might develop the necessary gifts.
  - We need to pray more diligently for God to supply the gifts.
  - We need to more actively mentor people to help them discover their gifts.
 (10 mins.)
2. Ask for testimonials of those who have had or have been a mentor in developing abilities. To prompt response, refer to the challenge in lesson 4, page 182 about seeking a mentor or reaching out to be a mentor. You might ask for a show

of hands as to who followed through on that suggestion or who intends to. (10 mins.)

3. Explain that the course, *Experiencing God*, is a wonderful resource for putting this unit into practice. If members have taken that course, ask for specific correlation between the principles of this unit on gifts and discovering what God is doing and joining Him in that. If they haven't done that course, recommend that they do so at the earliest opportunity. (10 mins.)

**Responding (25 mins.)**

1. Show video (5 mins.).
2. Read the words of Francis Ridley Havergal's magnificent hymn, "Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak" (handout 10b). Then sing it as a prayer. (3 mins.)
3. Divide into quads if all are from the same church or by church group and pray for those areas of needed gifts in the church. (7 mins.)
4. Divide into pairs and ask each to share what gift(s) they truly desire for God's glory in the church and then pray for each other. (5 mins.)
5. Ask each person to check day 4, page 184 (the personal plan to seek and/or develop some gift he desires, or a gift needed in his church), and update it in the light of this group session activity (5 mins.).

**Closure (5 mins.)**

1. Preview unit 11.
2. *Closing prayer.* Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the wonderful gifts the Spirit gives His church.

**AFTER THE SESSION**

1. If all of your group is from your own church, do you have any results from today's activities that should be called to the attention of the church leadership? Is there any other action you might take to help your church maximize the potential in your people for greater participation in accomplishing the purposes of the church? Any people you need to recruit for specific tasks? Someone who needs mentoring that you might provide?

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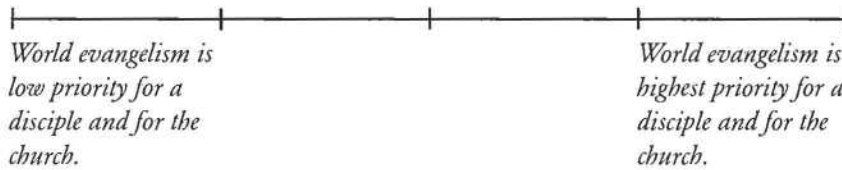
2. Refer to the standard After the Session procedures.

## GROUP SESSION 11

## POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD

## Activity 9: Sending

- Refer to the standard Before the Session procedures.
- This session involves more handouts and charts than usual. Prepare the following items:
  - a simple diagram on newsprint, chalkboard, or transparency to represent the following:



- a copy of each of the following for each member:
  - The Progress of World Evangelism (handout 11a)
  - “10/40 Window” map (handout 11 b)
  - “Great Commission Church Profile” (handout 11c). Note that you may need to find answers to this exercise ahead of time—from the church office or pastor.
  - “My Great Commission Involvement” (handout 11d)
- Prepare display copy of the list of questions on page 195 to analyze evangelistic effectiveness of your church.
- Prepare a copy of “My Great Commission Involvement” (found under Responding) for each member.
- Optional: If you decide to introduce *Operation World*, you may choose to have several copies on hand to sell to any interested person (see Experiencing section).

## DURING THE SESSION

## Knowing (20 mins.)

1. Collect any written questions members brought.
2. As members arrive give the following instructions for the world-evangelism chart above: On the diagram displayed put a star (\*) on the place you feel God would have voted in the debate between the theologian and the missions leader (see unit 11 introduction), then initial the place you believe you are yourself as demonstrated by your attitudes and actions. Put an “X” at the place you think your church might be. Then write on the chart your reasons to believe God’s attitude toward world evangelism is what you chose.
3. *Memory work review.* Divide into twos and review memory verse (2 mins.).
4. Show video (5 mins.).
5. Display the scale you prepared before class on the importance of world evangelism. Ask members to come to a group consensus about where God would vote in the debate between the theologian and the missions leader and place a *G* on the scale. Then say to the group, *Initial the place you believe you are as demonstrated by your attitudes and actions. Put an X on the place where you think your church might be.*
6. Divide into quads. Instruct each group of four to combine their reasons why God places a high priority on world evangelism. Each group is to come up with a summary statement of those reasons (see day 1: God’s Character, God’s Activity, God’s Promises, Christ’s Command). After about 10 minutes ask each group

## SESSION GOALS

## Members will:

- describe the biblical basis of missions
- distinguish between the responsibility to witness and the gift of evangelism
- identify the characteristics of a truly “great Commission” church
- evaluate the current state of the world from God’s viewpoint
- commit to an additional growth step in witnessing, praying, and giving.



to vote on whether those reasons are sufficient to warrant our devoting a whole unit of study to the single gift of evangelism.

7. Reconvene and get a report from each group, both on their list of reasons and their vote. Write reasons on transparency, chalkboard, or newsprint as they are given. Guide a brief discussion of their answers.

#### Understanding (35 mins.)

1. Devote no more than 20 minutes to discussing the following three questions. The discussion could go on forever, but limit the time devoted to this exercise.
  - a. *Is the distinction the author made between witness and an evangelistic gift biblically valid?*
  - b. *What personal changes would you make if you believed you were sinning if you did not win many people to faith?*  
(Possible answers include: guilt; discouragement; witness less; I should feel guilty because everyone should win people to Christ; I should feel guilty because I do have the gift of evangelism but am not using it well. You'll notice that I think all those possible answers are valid except "guilt because everyone should win people to Christ.")
  - c. *How would church prayer times, training programs, and expectations be different if all church leaders believed that every member is called to be a faithful witness, but not all are given the gift of evangelism?*  
(Possible answers: sermons leave people feeling guilty only if they don't witness, not if they are unsuccessful in praying with many people to receive Christ; training would be for everyone in being more effective witnesses, only some for more effective evangelism; emphasis would be on "body life evangelism"—many members participating in various ways in winning a person to faith.)
2. Distribute copies of the "Rejoice! Four to Go!" chart (handout 11a). Divide into quads. Ask members to decide on where the church as a whole should put its greatest emphasis on evangelism—world A, B, C, or D. After 5 minutes distribute "10/40 Window" chart (handout 11b) and point out where we are actually investing our resources.
3. Optional: Best selling *Operation World* by Patrick Johnstone (Zondervan, 1993) is the best way to learn the status—evangelized or unevangelized—of every nation of the world. It's a prayer guide, dividing all nations into 365 sections for daily prayer. George Verwer, founder of Operation Mobilization and one of the world's top recruiters for missions, says for the serious disciple this book is second only to the Bible in importance! You may want to check it out; if it seems suitable for the missions maturity level of your group, introduce it to them.

#### Break (5 mins.)

#### Experiencing (25 mins.)

1. Divide into quads and spend 10 minutes in prayer for the missionaries known to members and for the unreached peoples of the world. Depending on how knowledgeable members are, you may need to introduce some missionaries and their ministry. If they don't know any missionaries sufficiently to pray for them, you might ask who followed through on the suggestion on page 202 to find and "adopt" at least one missionary.
2. Regather and sing several rousing missionary hymns such as "Rescue the Perishing," "We Have Heard the Joyful Sound," "Take Up Thy Cross and Follow Me," or "People Need the Lord."
3. Distribute the chart on a "Great Commission Church" (handout 11c) and ask them to put a check to mark the ideal biblical church and an X by where their



own church is. Also, display the chart so you can mark on it the consensus reached following discussion.

Limit discussion time to 15 minutes. The Bible reveals no official “right” answers, but in the light of God’s revealed heart and purpose for this world, I started each graph with what I consider the ideal. I know many churches that reach that ideal in each category. In fact, I have visited and investigated at least one church in each category that exceeds that “ideal”!

### Responding (30 mins.)

1. Show video (5 mins.).
2. To begin responding to the local need for evangelism, display the list of questions you copied from page 195 and ask the group for estimates on the questions that call for a personal judgment. Discuss briefly ways in which the church should and could take action to change answers that the group feels are inadequate (10 mins.).
3. Discuss what the group thinks should be targets for their church, immediate and long range, in being a great commission church as found on the graph in handout 11c. Discuss briefly what first steps might be in reaching that goal (10 mins.).
4. Distribute graph on levels of involvement, “My Great Commission Investment” (handout 11d) and divide into quads. Spend 5-10 minutes in personal reflection and prayer and then put a “1” where you feel you are. If you feel the nudge of the Spirit that you need to make some changes and you have the faith to do it, tell God of your intention to take a step up and mark your target with a “2.” One step will do! It’s the direction that counts.

If the groups have reached the level of intimacy needed for sharing the results of this self evaluation, after 5-10 minutes, suggest that they share with one another their present situation and their desires for the future. Follow up with a time of prayer for one another, person by person (10 mins.). If group sharing and prayer aren’t appropriate, have a time of personal prayer (5 mins.).

### Closure (5 mins.)

1. Preview unit 12 (2 mins.).
2. *Closing prayer.* Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the wonder that God would choose to do His work in this world through people like us. Pray for your church and those present that we may be all God wants us to be as true lovers of all the lost of the world.

### AFTER THE SESSION

Review the prayer section in your spiritual journal and check each answer to prayer. Next time will be your last with the group. Make special prayer preparation for a great closing session.

If all your group is from your own church, do you have any results from today’s activities that should be called to the attention of the church leadership? Might you take any other action to help your church maximize your people’s potential for great commission involvement?

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## GROUP SESSION 12

# A MARRIAGE MADE IN HEAVEN

### Activity 10: Glorifying

#### SESSION GOALS

Members will:

- celebrate!
- recall memory verses and activities of the Spirit
- relate the relationship of loving oneness with God to all the rest of the spiral.

The final time together should be a celebration of the freedom and joy of life in the Spirit. If circumstances permit, consider asking members to come early or to remain afterward for a “love feast,” as it was called in New Testament times. Plan a meal or refreshments in whatever way fits your group. Let the meal be on the New Testament model of joyous fellowship with one another and the Lord—a small foretaste of the marriage banquet of the Bridegroom and the bride!

#### BEFORE THE SESSION

- Refer to the standard Before the Session procedures.
- Prepare the following items:
  - a chart of the course outline with the memory verse Scripture reference for each unit.
  - a copy of the spiral for each member. Beside the spiral list the following: yield, trust, obey, know, love, companion, change, become like Jesus (handout 12a).
  - a hymnal for each member; or copies of the hymns and choruses you’ve used throughout the course.

#### DURING THE SESSION

If you have a “love feast” before the session, bring it to a close before your final session.

##### Knowing (20 mins.)

1. *Memory verse review.* Recite each memory verse in unison.
2. Ask members to name the activities of the Spirit (found in day 5).
3. Show video (5 mins.).

##### Understanding (25 mins.)

1. Distribute copies of the spiral you have prepared, instructing them to discuss the order in which the terms yield, trust, obey, know, love, companion, change, and become like Jesus should appear on the spiral; that is, which response leads on to the next. Divide into quads and ask them to seek a consensus on the order of spiraling up, explaining that several legitimate possibilities exist (10 mins.).
2. Regather and ask for results from each quad, putting on the display chart what they say. Discuss the role of yield and trust until they are willing to put that at the beginning of the spiral up. Without that, nothing else can happen. Discuss the final goal until members agree that loving oneness with God is what will happen when we see Him. Or, it is legitimate to put perfect likeness to Jesus at the top of the spiral.

The main point of this exercise is to help people feel the thrill of how these all interact and feed one another on each lap of the spiral: The more we know Him, the more we love Him; the more we love Him, the more we obey Him; the more we obey Him, the more like Him we become; the more like Him we become, the better we know Him; the more we know and love Him, the more we want to companion with Him; the more we companion with Him, the more we trust Him. On and on the spiral goes upward until we meet Jesus. And maybe after that as well! Wherever you start, after the initial turn-around—the

unconditional yes of the soul (yield and trust)—the others follow, each making possible and, in turn, reinforcing the others. (15 mins.)

### Break (5 mins.)

### Experiencing and Responding (70 mins.)

1. Show video (5 mins.).
2. Have a time of testimony, inviting members to share the greatest insight into life in the Spirit they have had through your 12 weeks together, or some experience that has greatly impacted their lives. You might suggest brief testimonies, with multiple opportunities to contribute rather than giving one long testimony. (30 mins.)
3. Sing hymns of worship and love for God, celebrating our purpose in life to worship Him and declare His glories, expressing our deep desire of loving oneness with Him. You could choose hymns or choruses printed in unit 12, or you could ask for favorites from past units or from a hymnal. If this catches on and many want to choose a hymn, you could ask them to choose one verse of the chosen hymn for all to sing. (10-15 mins.)
4. Prayer time. Let each member express some praise, thanksgiving, or expression of love. Ask them not to make requests at this time, but to focus on worshiping God. Suggest they may want to quote from what they wrote in day 2. (5-10 mins.)
5. Divide into quads and have a final time of prayer. Pray for each other specifically. Pray that the Spirit will spiral each of you up into greater likeness to Jesus, more intimate companionship with our eternal lover. If the group has reached the level of openness to share personally, suggest that these prayers be specific for what they have learned is their friend's greatest desire or most difficult obstacle. (10 mins.)
6. Closing hymn or video. (5 mins.)

### Closure (2 mins.)

Farewell and benediction.

### AFTER THE SESSION

If you're particularly grateful for what God has done in answer to your prayers in this course, I'm sure He'd be glad to hear about it! Maybe it would be good to set aside a few minutes of quiet to review what has taken place in the lives of the people in your group (maybe checking out your prayer journal) and tell the Lord the specifics of your thanks.

Some special friendships may have developed, and you'll want to keep in touch with those. Be sure to pray for each member of your group for the first few weeks in order to conserve the fruit of your labor in leading them through this experience of life in the Spirit.

### **SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD**

Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me;  
Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.  
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.  
Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.

—Daniel Iverson

### **TAKE MY LIFE, AND LET IT BE**

Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love,  
At the impulse of Thy love.

Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee;  
Take my voice and let me sing  
Always, only, for my King,  
Always, only, for my King.

Take my heart it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

—Fances R. Havergal

### **TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS**

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace.

—Helen H. Lemmel

### **HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION**

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.”

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
That soul, tho’ all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake!”

—George Keith

### **BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD,**

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love,  
And do what Thou wouldst do

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Till I am wholly Thine,  
Till all this earthly part of me  
Glows with Thy fire Divine.

—Edwin Hatch

### **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

(chorus) Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

—Thomas O. Chisholm

### **O WORSHIP THE KING**

O worship the King, all glorious above,  
And gratefully sing His wonderful love;  
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space!  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
In Thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail:  
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

—Robert Grant

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