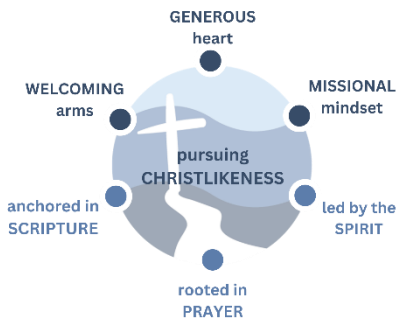


# Living our Values... Growing our Culture

## Week 3: Led by the Spirit



### Opening question:

- What does being 'led by the Spirit' mean to you?

### Read – Acts 1:1-9;

### Questions (choose some from):

- 1) Some of Jesus' last words to his disciples before he ascended into heaven were to 'Wait for the Holy Spirit to come'. What do you think would have happened if they had not waited? What does this teach us?
- 2) Jesus says in v 8 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be my witnesses...' Think about the stories in Acts. What did that power of the Holy Spirit look like for the disciples? What did the Holy Spirit enable them to do?
- 3) If Joel's prophecy is true (Acts 2: 17) that God would pour out his Holy Spirit on **all** people, that means the Holy Spirit is available to us too. How do you feel about that? What do you think that means for us? Does it mean the same as for the disciples?
- 4) What is your experience of the Holy Spirit? How do you think the Holy Spirit can empower you in your life, on your frontlines to do your little bit in 'demonstrating and proclaiming the Kingdom.'
- 5) What do you think it means for you as an individual to be 'led by the Spirit'? Share any stories you might have from the past.
- 6) What do you think it means for us as a team of churches to look to be 'led by the Spirit'? (in our worship, our mission, our leadership, our Life groups?). What could we do differently to be more open to the Spirit?
- 7) What holds you back from being led by the Spirit? Fear? Disappointment? Past experiences? Sin? Offer these things to God in prayer.

### Key verse:

**'But 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)**

## Respond... you might like to respond in one of the ways below...

### 1) Inviting the Spirit to fill us afresh

***'Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled [Keep on being filled] with the Spirit.'* (Ephesians 5:18)**

Invite everyone to have an opportunity to be open to the spirit now – to be filled afresh, and to patiently wait before God. Before doing so, explain what will happen and give everybody a chance to share how they feel about it. Remind people that whilst sometimes the Spirit's work is dramatic and instant, more often than not the Spirit's transformation in us is a much more quiet transformation which over time shapes our thoughts, desires and actions. If anyone is afraid at all, then remind them that one of the roles of the Spirit is to be our comforter (John 14:26 KJV), He is not someone we need to fear.

- Invite people to close their eyes and focus on God. Then either sing together 'Spirit of the Living God' or get someone to say a prayer to invite the Holy Spirit to come.
- Spend some time in silence, inviting everyone to open themselves to the Holy Spirit, asking God to fill them afresh, and praying for a particular work of the Spirit in their lives (for example to make them bolder as a witness for Christ; to see more clearly the truth of who God is; for a word of guidance; for a particular gift of the Spirit that they desire). It might be helpful to ask people to hold their hands open as a sign of their openness to receive. You may also like to invite people to pray for each other.
- After an appropriate time invite people to share anything that they wish to. It may be that they feel that the Spirit has been speaking to them and giving them a verse or a word or picture to share.

### 2) Joining in with what God is doing...

Someone once said 'Mission is finding out what God is doing and joining in'

Take time in silence to bring one of your frontlines to God (your workplace, your neighbourhood, your family, a group you are in etc.).

- a) In the silence ask the Holy Spirit to show you where He is at work at the moment... be open to what comes to mind. It may be a particular person or something specific
- b) Ask the Holy Spirit 'How can I join in with what you are doing there?' and see if you sense anything.
- c) Share anything you have sensed with someone else and commit it to prayer.

## Live it out this week: Be open to the Spirit

Make a conscious effort to be open to the Holy Spirit this week.

For example:

- 1) Pray each morning. 'Fill me afresh with your Holy Spirit Lord. Empower me, guide me and give me courage to be a witness for you today' ...and see what happens.
- 2) During your day, when you are around other people, be open to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Ask the Holy Spirit if there is anyone He is calling you to talk to/get alongside. And if so, ask Him if He calling you to share anything or say anything to that person?
- 3) Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you or empower you for your work or family life. If you face a problem, pray and ask the Spirit to help you and guide you rather than just trying to fix it yourself or make a decision without praying about it.