

### A/ Teaching

**Bible Material – Key Points** - based on Luke 15v11-32, 1 John 3v1

[Illustration: Day out with a young child.]

#### Father-Son

- Union - It is your fundamental identity (John 1v12-13) – born of God, belong to God
- In story, neither son appreciated oneness with Father (Luke 15v11-32)
- God loves me as his child, so I love Him as Father. (Luke 15v20-21)
- Assurance by Holy Spirit (Romans 8v14-16)
- [Illustrations – letter from relative; hug]
- Communion – It is up to you (Luke 15v13,18,28-32)
- Enjoy presence and character. (Luke 15v22-24&28)

#### Perfect Dad

- Your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5v48)
- He seeks your good (Jeremiah 32v38-41) and he shows kindness to you (Ephesians 2v7)
  - He provides (Matthew 6v11), protects (Matt 6v13), so enjoy his generosity.
  - He trains (2 Timothy 3v16), and disciplines (Hebrews 12v4-11), so enjoy his formation.
  - He loves to be with you, so enjoy his presence.

#### Our Father

- How does a Father show love? How does a child show love back?
- We share the Father with Jesus! He loves us the same. (John 17v23)
- We share the Father with one another (Matthew 6v9, Ephesians 3v14-15)

#### **Practical “How to”**

All relationships need both time and means of communication:

- Time - Set aside regular time and make high priority – when wake / go to bed / lunch time ... Also, develop a continual “presence” as you share with him in everything.
- Bible – find good way you can engage with God in the Bible (see materials and ideas below) ... meditate in his presence on what he is saying to you.
- Prayer – find a way you can engage with God in prayer (See “How to Pray” guide)
- Soak – meditate and listen (allocate a longer time from time to time)

### B/ Personal Reflection & Development - Materials available

- As a starting point, you may like to look at the “How to read the Bible” leaflet.
- What about having a Bible Reading Plan? There are many options to try ...
  - Daily Notes – eg Daily Bread / Every Day with Jesus
  - Devotional Books
  - Bible in 3 years – e.g. IVPs “Search the Scriptures”
  - YouVersion App
  - Bible in a Year – (e.g. Nicky Gumbel, but there are others too)
- Accessing the Bible in different formats:
  - Different Bible versions
  - Online - YouVersion App / eSword / BibleGateway
  - Video – Youtube (e.g. dramatized Gospels and Acts)
  - Audio - MP3
  - Read discuss the passage with others.
- It is a good idea to have a grasp of the Bible’s Big Story so you can see how things fit. The following books which give an overview are available at the back of church:
  - “Storylines” by Croft & Pilavachi.
  - “From creation to new creation” by Tim Chester.
  - “God’s big picture” by Vaughan Roberts.
- Ideas to help us pray
  - Use a prayer diary to remind you of different things to pray each day.
  - Use a journal to record prayers and answers.
  - Create a worship play list using Youtube, Spotify, CDs, etc.
  - Have a look at the “How to pray” guide.
- Key Bible verses to memorise and meditate on:
  - John 1v12; 1 John 3v1; Romans 8v15-16, John 17v3
- Songs to meditate on:
  - You’re a good good Father (I’ve heard a thousand stories)
  - Father God I wonder
  - I am a child of God (No longer slaves to fear)
  - Praise my soul the king of heaven.
- Reflect on some of the “Small Team” and “Pair/Triplet” material before meeting.

## C/ Small Team (1 hour 15mins + worship)

- Worship
- Summary of “Bible Material” (5 mins)
- Talk Questions (15 mins)
  - Why can we say God is our Father?
  - In what ways did the 2 sons not appreciate their father?
  - What makes God a “Good, good father,” (ref. Chris Tomlin)
  - How do you think the “prodigal son” felt in his new relationship with the Father?
  - How did Jesus set the example to us disciples in terms of his relationship with the Father? E.g. John 10v15, 30, 37-38, Luke 5v16
- Summary of “Practical” (5 mins)
- Practical Questions (40 mins)
  - You are a child of the Father, but we tend to be more like the prodigal-son, or the worker(elder)-son than like Jesus. In what ways is this true?
  - The elder son struggled with the Father’s generosity. What are the clues to this in the story? In what ways might it be evident in our lives?
  - Both brothers were in it for themselves. Who am I really in it for? How can this change?
  - Think of a time when you have sensed the Father’s love? What happened? What was it like?
  - Reading the Father’s message to us:
    - Let each share what ways they have tried to read/listen to the Bible and what has worked or not worked.
    - What ways do you think might be good ways to try going forward?
    - Are there ways you can support one another?
  - Talking with the Father:
    - Share what you find most difficult and what you find easiest about prayer. Is it easier to pray quietly or out loud?
    - Share what techniques in prayer you have tried and what enabled you to engage or not.
- Pray together (10 mins)
  - Let each pray for someone else. Some may wish to write something to read.
  - Pray for your “list-of-5”

## D/ Pair/Triplet (40 mins)

- The goal is not to be right but to help one another as brothers/sisters in Christ (Ecclesiastes 4v12).
- Share and Discuss together (15 mins)
  - Share about your relationship with God as Father – what are the highs and the lows?
  - Share encouragements you have had from bible reading / prayer / worship.
  - Share what you find difficult in bible reading / prayer / worship.
  - How can you help each other in these things?
- Read a passage from the Bible together (this could be one that one of you has read during the week or Romans 8v12-30). (15 mins)
  - What does this passage say about God?
  - What does this passage say about us as humans?
  - What does it say about the relationship between us and God?
  - What is God wanting to say to me specifically from this passage?
- Pray together (10 mins)
  - Give thanks and pray for one another based on the Bible passage and your discussion.
  - Thank God that he is your Father and pray that God will help you each grow as his child.
  - Pray for your “list-of-5”

## Talk

### Summary last time:

Fruitful – God wants fruitful, depends on connection – as character blossoms, disciples develop

Disciples – copy Jesus & be fishers of men

Love – depends on object, greatest command

## Luke 15

### Father-Son

Neither child loved Father – 1) hasn't understood oneness with F; self-interest; abuses relation, generosity, freedom & assets; own wisdom – foolish; antinomian – end wrecked material, social, spiritual, mental – Cn life about them, abuse grace & generosity of God.

2) hasn't understood oneness with F; slaves well treated, but this son enslaved; self-interest; working to gain favour with F, do better than br, gain wealth for future;

"You are always with me, everything I have is yours" - Good Cn living flows from a true apprec of Father which results in a love towards him as Father.

[sheet] Moses Ex33v14-15 "My Presence will go with you"

### Perfect Father

Father perfect – wealthy, generous, gives freedom / caring, just, forgiving / welcoming, compassion, joyful, instructive in truth, not swayed from right.

[sheet]

### Our Father

Father shows – attention & time; look & face; touch & talk; doing together, helping & fun; discipline & training; matter of fact and the joke; special and the consistent; behind the scenes prep & clearing up;

Child shows – attention & time; look & face; finger & cry; go to & rely on; hug & talk; rules respected & relaxed in presence; enjoy & be proud of;

OT – 15 times, gospels 189, letter 75

## FRUITFUL DISCIPLES – 1 LOVE FOR GOD

### 1.1 FATHER – DEVELOP RELATIONSHIP

#### A/ Preach

Based on Luke 15 – Prodigal Son; 1 John 3v1; John 15v1-8

#### *Key points*

To place a LOVE FOR GOD is to live in pursuit of your ultimate relationship being with him.

Nature of relationship is based on love (care) and love (respect). In Luke 15, all the Father gives is based on relationship and the son's trust is in his character. For us it begins and continues in our faith in Christ.

You became a child of God and any child wants to be with their father – especially if he is a good one!

Jesus knew OT of Bible and prayed regularly, we must expect to do the same as his followers.

#### **How to**

All relationships need both time and means of communication:

- Time - Set aside regular time and make high priority – when wake / go to bed / lunch time ...
- Bible – find good way you can engage with God in the Bible (see materials and ideas below)
- Prayer – find good way you can engage with God in prayer (eg. Worship, diary, meditate, from Bible ...)
- Soak – meditate and listen (allocate a longer time from time to time)

#### *Materials available*

- How to read the Bible (leaflet by RW)
- Reading Plans
  - Notes – Daily Bread / Every Day with Jesus
  - Devotional Books
  - Study Books – IVPs Search the Scriptures
  - YouVersion App
  - Bible in a Year
- Bibles
  - Different Bible versions
  - Link to YouVersion App / eSword / BibleGateway
  - Video - Youtube
  - Audio - MP3
- Bible overview materials
  - Bible overview course – Roland
  - Books – "Storylines" by Croft & Pilavachi ; "From creation to new creation" by Tim Chester; "God's big picture" by Vaughan Roberts
- Support materials
  - Commentaries – explain a book of the bible section by section with (depending on commentary) discussion of any textual differences, difficulties in translation, original meaning and how applies today, including often different views.
  - Bible Dictionaries – explain bible terms and concepts and usually give some background.

- Prayer
  - Example diary
  - Example calendar
  - Create a worship play list – youtube, CDs, Downloads, Premier Radio ...
  - [Learning to pray guide](#)
- Other ideas
  - Read in a small group
  - Have a daily chart with allocated time each day
  - Keep a journal to note down what you hear in reading and prayer.
- Key Bible verses to memorise and meditate on:
  - John 1v12; 1 John 3v1; Romans 8v15-16, John 17v3
- Songs to meditate on:
  - You're a good good father (I've heard a thousand stories)
  - Father God I wonder
  - I am a child of God (No longer slaves to fear)
  - Praise my soul the king of heaven.

### Group Mentoring (1 hour + worship)

- Worship
- Summary of talk (5 mins)
- Talk Questions (10 mins)
  - How do you think the “prodigal son” felt in his new relationship with the Father?
  - What was Jesus and the Father’s relationship like? Eg John 10v15, 30, 37-38
  - How did Jesus maintain this relationship? Eg Luke 5v16
- Summary of practical (5 mins)
- Practical Questions (30 mins)
  - Let each share what ways they have tried to read/listen to the Bible and what has worked or not worked.
  - What ways do you think might be good ways to try going forward?
  - Share what times work best for each of you and the difficulties you have. Are there ways you can support one another?
  - Share what you find most difficult and what you find easiest about prayer. Is it easier to pray quietly or out loud?
  - Share what techniques in prayer you have tried and what enabled you to engage or not.
- Pray together (10 mins)
  - Let each say a prayer for someone else. Some may wish to write something to read.

### One-on-One (40 mins)

- The goal is not to be right but to help one another as brothers/sisters in Christ. (15 mins)
  - Share encouragements you have had from bible reading / prayer / worship
  - Share what you find difficult in bible reading / prayer / worship
  - How can you help each other?
- Read a passage from the Bible together (this could be one that one of you has read during the week). (15 mins)
  - What does this passage say about God?
  - What does this passage say about us a humans?
  - What does it say about the relationship between us and God?
  - What is God wanting to say to me specifically from this passage?

## FRUITFUL DISCIPLES – 1 LOVE FOR GOD

### 1.2 SOVEREIGN – EXERCISE HIS WILL

#### **A/ Preach**

Based on Luke 7v1-10 (centurion under and exercising authority); Luke 8v22-25 (calm storm); 9v10-17 (feed 5000).

#### ***Key points***

To place a LOVE FOR GOD is to live by the fact that he is sovereign and has the right to all authority over our lives.

Jesus proclaimed a kingdom. A kingdom is where a king reigns. He is the king, we are the subjects. To enter the kingdom is to be subject to the ways and wishes of the king. Jesus is a loving, caring, just and fair ruler.

His will is communicated to us by the Word and Spirit. It then becomes a battle for our will – will we submit to him or our own fleshly desires.

Jesus continually did the Father's will emanating from his relationship. (John's gospel and especially 3v34-35, 4v34, 5v19-20,36, 8v28-29, 14v10-11)

We obey in the sense of calling where we seek guidance, but more importantly in terms of character and our attitudes and intentions in the situations we are in.

Legalism is to obey rules to gain favour and personal gain. To live under grace is to obey from a heart of honour and thanks towards him because he has shown you favour.

#### **How to**

- Understand what he says. Firstly we need to know God's will. Hopefully you have started investing time with God in reading the Bible, praying and worshipping. God uses his Holy Spirit to speak to us in these times, as well as through other ways. We get to grips with the Bible so that we can know God more fully, as we know God, then we come to know his will.
- Think what he says. Secondly we need to allow the way we think to be changed by our knowledge above so that we think in line with God. Romans 12v2. This comes out of a humble and submissive heart towards God.
- Do what he says. Thirdly we need to exercise God's will. As we deliberately do as he says (often with effort), we will find the actions reinforce the change in the way we think and doing God's will will become more "natural" to us. (Galatians 6v7-10)
- See Character change. As we allow what we hear from God to change our thinking and continue to practice this, we will find that our characters are changed to be more like Christ – and this is the demonstration of God's work in us (Romans 5v4-5)

#### ***Materials available***

- **How does God guide?** (leaflet by RW)
- Other Bible passages regarding God's sovereignty
  - Psalm 139
  - Isaiah 40
  - Romans 8-10
- What is God's calling for me? (leaflet re SHAPE)
- What is God's calling for me in my current situation? (leaflet re character)
- Other resources
  - Websites ?
  - Books?

- Key Bible verses to memorise and meditate on:
  - John 3v5. John 4v34, Mark 1v15, Mark 1v17-18, Romans 12v1-2, Ephesians 5v17
- Songs to meditate on:
  - Trust and Obey
  - I want to serve the purpose of God

#### **Group Mentoring (1 hour + worship)**

- Worship
- Summary of talk (5 mins)
- Talk Questions (10 mins)
  - What does Jesus mean when he talks about "entering the kingdom of God" (John 3v5)?
  - What is the difference between legalistic obedience and grace obedience?
  - Do you agree that to be a disciple means to be obedient to the Father's will?
- Summary of practical (5 mins)
- Practical Questions (30 mins)
  - What situations and roles has God called you to at this present time? (think about your relationships and functions in life)
  - What is God's will for your thinking and behavior in these situations and roles? (See Galatians 5v16-26, additionally you could look at 2 Peter 1v5-9, Matthew 28v18-20, Romans 12v1-21)
  - What is God calling you to obey right now in the way you think and behave?
  - What are the obstacles which keep us from being obedient to God?
  - How can you support one another in developing obedience to God?
- Pray together (10 mins)
  - Let each say a prayer for someone else. Some may wish to write something to read.

#### **One-on-One (40 mins)**

- The goal is not to be right but to help one another as brothers/sisters in Christ. (15 mins)
  - Share encouragements you have had from bible reading / prayer / worship
  - Share what you find difficult in bible reading / prayer / worship
  - Share what God has been saying about how you are to be obedient to him in your current situation.
  - Share if you feel there is a calling God is calling you towards.
- Read Isaiah 40v27-31 together (or one of you has read during the week). (15 mins)
  - What does this passage say about God?
  - What does this passage say about us as humans?
  - What does it say about the relationship between us and God?
  - What is God wanting to say to me specifically from this passage?
- Pray together (10 mins)
  - Pray something based on the Bible passage – it could be a prayer of thanks or a request.
  - Pray for God to enable each of you to obey him in the areas identified earlier.
  - Pray that God will help you grow in your relationship with him.

## FRUITFUL DISCIPLES – 1 LOVE FOR GOD

### 1.3 PROVIDER – DEPEND ON HIM

#### A/ Preach

Based on Luke 12v22-34 (seek first kingdom and he will provide).

#### Key points

To place a LOVE FOR GOD means that we live by the fact that our source of all good things is God and that he is the ultimate good thing.

Everything is made by God, belongs to God and is at his disposal (eg Ps 50v9-12).

God makes promises to his children which he does not break (2 Corinthians 1v20)

Jesus trusted his heavenly Father to provide (eg Luke 4v1-13)

As we trust him, his promises are fulfilled (eg Proverbs 3v5-6, Matthew 28v19-20, Philippians 4v19)

We can be content in all situations as our pursuit is God, not his blessings (eg Philippians 4v10-13)

#### How to

- Read, listen, meditate on his promises in the Bible (see below)
- Read, listen, meditate on the stories of people who have demonstrated God's faithfulness (see below).
- Read, listen, meditate on the stories in the Bible which show God's faithfulness.
- Think about how God's promises relate to situations in your life.

#### Materials available

- **God's promises**
  - Have a look at the Freedom In Christ cards which give Bible verses for "Who I am in Christ", "20 Cans of Success".
  - Read a New Testament letter and identify the statements it says about what God has done for you, is doing in you and what God will do for you. Write these down and put your trust in them.
  - Look at this website for a list of promises from the books of the Bible.  
<https://bible.org/article/selected-promises-god-each-book-bible>
- A selection of people in the Bible who demonstrate Gods' faithfulness
  - Abraham (Genesis 12-25)
  - David (1 Samuel 16- 1Kings 2)
  - Daniel (Daniel 1-9)
  - Joseph (Genesis 37,39-50)
  - Elijah (1 Kings 17-2 Kings 2)
  - Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1-13)
  - Moses (Leviticus & Numbers)
  - Elisha (1 Kings 19, 2Kings 2-9)
  - Paul (Acts 9,13-28)
  - Joshua (Numbers 13, Joshua)
  - Hezekiah (2 Kings 18-20)
- Christians whose stories are worth reading for our encouragement in faith
  - Hudson Taylor (Started global mission 1832-1905)
  - William Tyndale (Bible Translator & Martyr 1494-1536)
  - David Brainard (Mission to native Americans 1717-1747)
  - Lord Shaftesbury (Politician/Social Reformer 1801-1885)
  - George Muller (Evangelist & orphanage 1805-1898)
  - William Wilberforce (Fought slave trade 1759-1833)
  - James Fraser (Pioneer China missionary 1886-1938)
  - George Whitefield (Revival Evangelist 1714-1770)
  - CT Studd (Cricketer & missionary 1860-1931)
  - Jonathan Edwards (Revival Evangelist 1703-1758)
  - Jim & Elizabeth Elliot (Mission to tribes 1927-2015)
  - John Wesley (Founded Methodism 1703-1791)
  - John Bunyan (Imprisoned preacher & author 1628-1688)
  - D L Moody (evangelist 1837-1899)
  - Amy Carmichael (Mission/orphanage in India 1867-1951)
  - Brother Andrew (Bible Smuggler 1928- )

- John Newton (Transformed slave trader 1725-1807)
- Corrie Ten Boom (Hid Jews in WW2 1892-1983)
- William Carey (Global mission & education 1761-1834)
- Adoniram Judson (Mission to Burma 1788-1850)

- Sheet of God's promises and life areas.
- Key Bible verses to memorise and meditate on:
  - Proverbs 3v5-6; Luke 12v29,31; Philippians 4v19
- Songs to meditate on:
  - Faithful One
  - Great is your faithfulness
  - God of angel armies

#### Group Mentoring (1 hour + worship)

- Worship
- Summary of talk (5 mins)
- Talk Questions (10 mins)
  - How does it make you feel when you think on the fact that all things belong to God?
  - Share with each other your favourite stories of people living by faith.
  - In what way is God's promise to provide conditional?
- Summary of practical (5 mins)
- Practical Questions (30 mins)
  - What are the things you tend to worry about?
  - Identify promises that God speaks into these matters?
  - How can you keep your mind focused on the promises God makes rather than the issue?
- Pray together (10 mins)
  - Let each say a prayer for someone else. Some may wish to write something to read.

#### One-on-One (40 mins)

- The goal is not to be right but to help one another as brothers/sisters in Christ. (15 mins)
  - Share encouragements you have had from bible reading / prayer / worship
  - Share what you find difficult in bible reading / prayer / worship
  - Share what God has been saying to you about trusting him to provide.
  - Share promises which are relevant to your situation.
- Read Genesis 22v1-18 together (or one one of you has read during the week). (15 mins)
  - If you wish to explore how this incident relates to the ethics of child sacrifice, have a look at the following webpage, <http://www.jeanejones.net/2011/10/abraham-isaac-child-sacrifice/>
  - What does this passage say about God?
  - What does this passage say about us as humans?
  - What does it say about the relationship between us and God?
  - What is God wanting to say to me specifically from this passage?
- Pray together (10 mins)
  - Pray something based on the Bible passage – it could be a prayer of thanks or a request.
  - Pray for God to enable each of you to trust him in the areas identified earlier.
  - Pray that God will help you grow in your relationship with him in this way.

## FRUITFUL DISCIPLES – 1 LOVE FOR GOD

### 1.4 OWNER – STEWARD HIS GIFTS

#### A/ Preach

Based on Luke 19v11-27 (Parable of Talents / Minas)

#### **Key points**

To place a LOVE FOR GOD is to live by the fact that he created all things including myself and he has the right to give and take away (Job 1v21). I am not the owner of my own life, nor anything else, I am a steward. I have responsibility.

Jesus' human life was a gift from God so that he might serve others (Matthew 20v28). He set the example.

My human life is a gift from God (Psalm 139v13-16). My talents, possessions, relationships, character, experiences. He uses all these things for the good of those who love him (Romans 8v28) and he gives them to serve others.

My Spiritual life is a gift from God. Salvation, forgiveness, the Holy Spirit, child of God, the fruit, the gifts ... 2 Timothy 1v6-7

I have a responsibility to nurture what I have by nature. This means experiment, use, serve, glorify God.

As a Christian I am called to do anything and everything with this understanding (Philippians 3v20-21, Colossians 3v17)

#### **How to**

- Attitude – be thankful for what God has given you and recognise these are not for your glory but to serve others and glorify God. Keep in the front of your mind some of the verses above, and let them soak in your heart.
- Experiment – all children are expected to try things out and see what they are good at. They take knocks and they are not always good at what they want to be. Sometimes others need to help them see what they are good at and not good at. We are God's children. Take risks, give it a go, listen to advice.
- Develop – most things start small. The greatest mathematicians started by adding 1 and 1. By feeding the mind with truth, and practising regularly, the raw gift is developed into a useful skill. Be taught, be trained, be critiqued, be corrected, be encouraged, try again, and excel.
- Discipline – It will take persistence to develop what God has given you.
- Serve – How can you use your gift to help someone else today?

#### **Materials available**

- **What has God given me to Steward sheet.**
- See also SHAPE sheet from Session 1.2.
- Other Bible passages regarding God's Ownership and our Stewardship
  - Ephesians 2v1-10
  - 1 Corinthians 6v19-20
  - Genesis 1,2
  - 1 Corinthians 12v1-31
  - Romans 12v3-8
- Other resources
  - John Stott's "Issues Facing Christians today" is about our responsibility in the world.
  - Francis Shaeffer wrote several books about the Christian in culture and the work place.
  - Erik Rees "SHAPE" is a book about finding your role in life.
  - David Watson "Discipleship"

#### **Group Mentoring (1 hour + worship)**

- Worship
- Summary of talk (5 mins)
- Talk Questions (10 mins)
  - For whose benefit to we tend, by nature, to regard our gifts? What sort of form might this take?
  - What areas of my life do we find more difficult to consider as belonging to God?
  - What do I have a responsibility to do?
  - Think about how this truth applies in different contexts based on following verses:
    - 1 Corinthians 6v19-20 with regards to morality and personal life
    - 1 Peter 2v13-17 with regards to the part we play in society
    - Psalm 127v3 with regards to our children/family (see also Ephesians 6v1-4)
    - Colossians 3v17,22-4v1 with regards to our work
    - Acts 4v32-37 with regards to our possessions
    - 1 Corinthians 12v4-11 with regards to our spiritual gifts
    - Romans 12v3-8 with regards to natural gifts
- Summary of practical (5 mins)
- Practical Questions (30 mins)
  - Share verbally some of the gifts (in its most general sense) God has given to you.
  - How can we ensure that we are more like the one who earned 10 more than the one hid it?
  - What does this mean with regards to our possessions, work, relationships, church ... ?
  - Share one gift that you think God is calling you to use more responsibly.
  - How can we help each other develop our gifts.
- Pray together (10 mins)
  - Let each say a prayer for someone else. Some may wish to write something to read.

#### **One-on-One (40 mins)**

- The goal is not to be right but to help one another as brothers/sisters in Christ. (15 mins)
  - Share encouragements you have had from bible reading / prayer / worship
  - Share what you find difficult in bible reading / prayer / worship
  - Share what God has been saying about what you have that he owns and how you should use it.
- Read 1 Peter 2v9-12 together (or one one of you has read during the week). (15 mins)
  - What does this passage say about God?
  - What does this passage say about us as humans?
  - What does it say about the relationship between us and God?
  - What is God wanting to say to me specifically from this passage?
- Pray together (10 mins)
  - Pray something based on the Bible passage – it could be a prayer of thanks or a request.
  - Pray for God to enable each of you to obey him in the areas identified earlier.
  - Pray that God will help you grow in your relationship with him.

## FRUITFUL DISCIPLES – 1 LOVE FOR GOD

### 1.5 ENABLER – BE FILLED WITH HIS SPIRIT

#### A/ Preach

Based on Luke 3v21-22, 4v1-2, 14-21

#### **Key points**

Jesus was filled with the Spirit of God at the start of his ministry – how much more do I need him!

Jesus' final command to the disciples was to wait until the Holy Spirit came on them so he would enable them.

The desire of the apostle Paul was for the believers to be more and more filled with the Holy Spirit to give them insight and power – eg Ephesians 1v17-19, 3v14-19

The distinction between being Born of the Spirit, Baptised with the Spirit and Filled with the Spirit.

The Spirit brings assurance we are a child of God – Romans 8v13-17; Ephesians 1v13-14

The Spirit brings fruit in our character – Galatians 5v22-23

The Spirit guides us – Luke 4v1, John 16v12-15

The Spirit brings gifting to edify the church and to witness to the world – Acts 1v8, 1 Corinthians 12v1-11

Keep seeking more – Ephesians 3v16, 5v18; Luke 11v5-13

Don't quench the Holy Spirit, but be led by Him – Galatians 5v16-25; 1 Thessalonians 5v19

#### **How to**

- Ask – daily for more of the Holy Spirit.
- Invest time – in His presence (worship, prayer, Bible)
- Receive – allow Him to touch you and fill you
- Honour Him – be obedient to His call, be led by Him.
- Step out in faith – nurture the fruit in yourself; follow his leading; exercise His gifts.

#### **Materials available**

- [Spiritual Gift analysis sheet](#)
- [Fruit of the Spirit analysis sheet.](#)
- Other Bible passages regarding God's Enabling by His Spirit
  - [See the Spirit through the life of Jesus ...](#)
  - [See the Holy Spirit in Acts ...](#)
  - [The following passages concern the Holy Spirit in the letters](#)
- Other resources
  - Terry Virgo "The Spirit-filled Church"
  - Michael Green "The Holy Spirit and You"
  - 
  - [xxxxx](#)

#### **Group Mentoring (1 hour + worship)**

- Worship
- Summary of talk (5 mins)
- Talk Questions (10 mins)
  - Why is it helpful to distinguish between being born, baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit?
  - What is the relationship between the Spirit and the Word (Bible)? (NB 2 Peter 1v20-21)
  - We referred to gifts, fruit, assurance and guidance. Which do you think are more important? – why?
  - What is the ultimate goal or intention of the Holy Spirit which is the reason why he works in us?
- Summary of practical (5 mins)
- Practical Questions (30 mins)
  - Are there ways we can identify if we are short on the Holy Spirit?
  - What might prevent us from being filled with the Holy Spirit? How can we overcome these obstacles?
  - Have you been Born, Baptised and Filled with the Holy Spirit? Would you like to ask for these now?
- Pray together (10 mins)
  - Pray for the Holy Spirit to come on you individually and corporately and wait on Him.

#### **One-on-One (40 mins)**

- The goal is not to be right but to help one another as brothers/sisters in Christ. (15 mins)
  - Share encouragements you have had from bible reading / prayer / worship
  - Share what you find difficult in bible reading / prayer / worship
  - Share what God has been saying about what you have that he owns and how you should use it.
- Read Luke 11v5-13 together (or one one of you has read during the week). (15 mins)
  - What does this passage say about God?
  - What does this passage say about us as humans?
  - What does it say about the relationship between us and God?
  - What is God wanting to say to me specifically from this passage?
- Pray together (10 mins)
  - Pray something based on the Bible passage – it could be a prayer of thanks or a request.
  - Pray for God to enable each of you to obey him in the areas identified earlier.
  - Pray that God will help you grow in your relationship with him.

## 0. A High Value of God

0.1. **Father – Develop Relationship** – a relationship initiated by him, but developed by both of us. It is founded on love which results in his care of us and our respect of him. It is our calling to enjoy him as he also enjoys us.

Practically we develop this relationship by:

0.1.1. Story - Prodigal Son

0.1.2. How –

0.1.2.1. Reading / listening to the Bible (his word) – establish a reading programme – eg notes, gospels, year programme, helps, youtube, mp3s ...

0.1.2.2. Relating back through prayer and worship – allocate time to pray / worship – have a song list and prayer list

0.1.2.3. Soak / meditate – allow time just to think through what read/prayed and allow him to speak.

0.1.2.4. Don't allow other things to be idols and get in the way of this relationship.

0.1.3. Action – fill in matrix of how will do on each day of week and how build up.

0.1.4. Discussion in small group & follow up actions

0.2. **Lord – Exercise his Will** – He is Lord of all; to not submit is to be in rebellion. We are now part of his kingdom which is to submit to his reign.

0.2.1. Story – Commission Matthew 28v16-20

0.2.2. How

0.2.2.1. Reading/listen to Bible and Holy Spirit with a view to apply it

0.2.2.2. Obey in your calling (family, work, social ...) – listen to God's guidance, but also trust him to lead and work through circumstances. "Remain in the place you were when called" unless clear leading.

0.2.2.3. Obey in your character – exercising love and grace (attitude), integrity and purity (morality), sacrifice and kingdom-seeking (motivation).

0.2.3. Action – What places and roles has God called me to? What does it mean to show the above character in my family, work, social ...

0.2.4. Discussion in small group & follow up action.

0.3. Provider – Trust and Depend on Him Totally

0.4. Owner - Steward His Gifts

0.5. Enabler - Be filled with His Spirit