

THE BUILD & DEFEND SERIES

BUILDING THE FRAME OF HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

A SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Introduction

Welcome to “Building the Frame of Holy Spirit Baptism,” a five-part Bible study series designed for youth. This journey is an invitation to explore the profound and life-changing reality of the Holy Spirit’s role in our lives. Throughout this series, we will delve into Scripture, uncovering the truths about the Holy Spirit as promised by God and how this divine presence shapes our identity, empowers our service, and fulfills our deepest needs for spiritual connection and guidance.

As we embark on this adventure together, each lesson will serve as a stepping stone into the deeper waters of spiritual understanding and practice:

Lesson 1: Understanding the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

We will begin by exploring what it means to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This session will set the foundation for understanding how the Holy Spirit unites us with Christ, becoming a vital presence in our hearts and lives.

Lesson 2: Prophecies and Promises - The Holy Spirit in Scripture

Next, we will journey through the prophecies of the Old Testament and the affirmations of the New Testament to see the continuity and faithfulness of God’s promise of the Holy Spirit to all believers.

Lesson 3: The Initial Evidence - Speaking in Tongues

The third lesson will tackle the often-misunderstood phenomenon of speaking in tongues. We’ll look at what Scripture says about this sign of the Holy Spirit’s baptism and discuss the importance of seeking the Spirit itself rather than the manifestations.

Lesson 4: The Role of the Holy Spirit in Salvation and Identity

Our fourth lesson will delve into the transformative work of the Holy Spirit in our process of salvation and how it confirms our new identity as children of God, empowering us to live a life that reflects our spiritual rebirth.

Lesson 5: Receiving the Holy Spirit - A Promise for All

We will conclude the series with practical steps on how to receive the Holy Spirit. Emphasizing the nature of this divine gift as a promise from God, we will learn how to prepare our hearts and lives to be receptive to this blessed outpouring.

Each session will include engaging activities, central Scripture verses, in-depth discussion, and actionable steps to not only learn about the Holy Spirit but to truly experience its work within us. As we progress, our prayer and commitment is that this series will not just be a transfer of knowledge but a transformative experience that will ignite a lasting passion for living a Spirit-led life.

So, let us begin this exciting exploration, eager to encounter the Holy Spirit and allow His power to frame our daily walk with Christ. Welcome to “Building the Frame of Holy Spirit Baptism.”

Lesson 1: Understanding the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

1. Hook/Ice Breaker

Activity: “Fill Me Up!” - Divide the youth into small groups and give each group a balloon. The teams will race to fill the balloon using only their breath, tying it off once it’s full. Discuss how different it was to fill the balloon with their own breath as compared to how the Holy Spirit fills us effortlessly.

2. Central Verse: “But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.” 1 Corinthians 6:17 (NKJV)

3. Body of the Lesson

1. Exploring the Concept of Being ‘One with the Lord’:

Unity with God through the Holy Spirit: When we talk about unity with God through the Holy Spirit, we’re delving into the mystery of our faith that allows us to join in a profound communion with the Divine. The Holy Spirit’s indwelling is a profound mystery and gift—it’s God choosing to reside within us.

- **Spiritual Intimacy:** Just as two friends grow closer the more time they spend together, our spirit becomes more aligned with God’s Spirit as we engage in a relationship with Him. This is the intimacy that the Holy Spirit offers—a closeness that surpasses any human connection.
- **Transformative Partnership:** The Holy Spirit’s presence within us is not passive. It is a partnership where God actively works within our lives, shaping our desires, guiding our thoughts, and empowering our actions. This indwelling should be seen as a transformative union, where our life becomes a dance led by the Spirit’s rhythm.
- **Practical Implications:** This unity affects how we live. It means our decisions are influenced by God’s will, our actions reflect God’s love, and our life’s direction is steered by God’s purposes. The characteristics of God—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—begin to flow through us.

The Purpose of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit: The baptism of the Holy Spirit is often misunderstood as a one-time event that marks the completion of a spiritual checklist. Instead, it’s more accurate to see it as a significant milestone in the beginning of a dynamic spiritual journey.

- **Initiation into Spiritual Life:** Like a birth, the baptism of the Holy Spirit brings us into the family of God in a new way. We start to see with spiritual eyes, hear with spiritual ears, and understand with a heart awakened to the divine realities.
- **Continuous Growth:** The journey following the baptism of the Holy Spirit is about growth and development. Just as a newborn must learn to walk and talk, we must learn to live by the Spirit, grow in the Spirit, and be led by the Spirit. This is a process of becoming more Christ-like every day.
- **Communion with God:** The baptism is the deepening of our communion with God. It’s not meant to be an isolated experience but a gateway to a richer, fuller experience of God’s presence in our lives. It’s about daily walking in fellowship with God, learning to listen to His voice, and following His lead.

4. Additional Scriptures for Exploration:

- **Romans 8:9-10** - Highlights that living with the Spirit is essential for being Christ’s.
- **Ephesians 1:13-14** - Discusses being sealed with the Holy Spirit as a promise of our inheritance.

5. Discussion Questions:

- How does the idea of being “one spirit with the Lord” affect our daily lives and decisions?
- Can anyone share an experience when they felt particularly close to God?
- How do we differentiate between our own thoughts and the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

6. Closer

1. **Action Item:** Encourage participants to spend time this week in prayer, specifically asking to experience a closer union with God through the Holy Spirit. They can keep a journal of any moments they feel a spiritual connection.
2. **Focus for Closing Prayer:** Ask God to open the hearts of the youth to understand the depth of unity with Him through the Holy Spirit. Pray for a real and tangible experience with the Holy Spirit in the coming week.

Lesson 2: Prophecies and Promises - The Holy Spirit in Scripture

1. Hook/Ice Breaker

Activity: “Predicting the Future” - Ask the youth to write down a “prophecy” about something they think will happen during the session or the coming week. Discuss how often in pop culture, prophecies are seen as guesses about the future, whereas biblical prophecy is a declaration of God’s certain plans.

2. Central Verse: “And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.” Joel 2:28 (NKJV)

3. Body of the Lesson

1. The Concept of Prophecy in the Bible:

- **Divine Communication:** Explain that biblical prophecy is not mere fortune-telling; it is God communicating His divine plans and purposes to humanity.
- **Historical Fulfillment:** Highlight how Old Testament prophecies about the Holy Spirit are fulfilled in the New Testament, affirming the reliability of God’s Word.

2. Old Testament Prophecies:

- **Joel 2:28:** Discuss the context in which God promises to pour out His Spirit, noting the inclusive language –“all flesh,” which implies the democratization of God’s Spirit.
- **Isaiah 28:11:** Explore the prophecy that foretold a sign of the Holy Spirit’s coming – speaking in tongues, and its fulfillment in the New Testament.

3. New Testament Fulfillment:

- **Matthew 3:11 and John 14:26:** Show how John the Baptist’s prophecy and Jesus’ promise about the Comforter coming were fulfilled, linking to the baptism of the Holy Spirit as experienced by the early church.

4. The Importance of Prophecy:

- **Confirmation of Truth:** Emphasize that prophecy serves as confirmation of God’s truth and a guide for faith and practice.
- **Hope for the Future:** Prophecy provides hope, pointing to the fact that God has a plan and is actively guiding history toward His purposes.

4. Additional Scriptures for Exploration:

- **Ezekiel 36:26-27:** A new spirit and heart as a promise.
- **Acts 2:16-17:** Peter’s declaration that Joel’s prophecy was fulfilled at Pentecost.

5. Discussion Questions:

- What is the difference between how the Bible uses prophecy and how it is often depicted in movies or books?
- Why do you think God chose to use prophecy as a means of communication with us?
- How does knowing that God’s prophecies have been fulfilled in the past affect our faith in His future promises?

6. Closer

1. **Action Item:** Encourage the youth to study a specific prophecy this week and observe its fulfillment in Scripture, reflecting on what this tells them about the character and faithfulness of God.
2. **Focus for Closing Prayer:** Pray for a deeper appreciation of the fulfillment of God’s promises throughout the Bible. Ask for the Holy Spirit to work within each participant, making God’s living word a reality in their lives.

Lesson 3: The Initial Evidence - Speaking in Tongues

1. Hook/Ice Breaker

Activity: “Non-Verbal Charades” - Have the group play a game of charades where they must convey a message without words. Discuss the challenge of communication without language and relate this to how speaking in tongues is a form of spiritual communication that transcends human language.

2. Central Verse: “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:4 (NKJV)

3. Body of the Lesson

1. Understanding Speaking in Tongues:

- **Biblical Context:** Give a background on the Day of Pentecost and what speaking in tongues signified for the early Church.
- **A Sign for Believers:** Discuss how speaking in tongues is a spiritual sign that accompanied the initial infilling of the Holy Spirit.

2. The Purpose of Tongues:

- **Personal Edification:** Speaking in tongues as a means of personal spiritual edification and communication with God (1 Corinthians 14:4).
- **A Sign to Unbelievers:** Explore instances in Scripture where tongues served as a sign to unbelievers (1 Corinthians 14:22).

3. The Role of Faith and Surrender:

- **Faith in the Giver, Not the Gift:** Emphasize the importance of seeking the Giver of the gifts rather than the gifts themselves.
- **Surrender to the Spirit:** The role of surrendering to the Holy Spirit’s leading and the importance of openness without coercion or imitation.

4. Additional Scriptures for Exploration:

- **1 Corinthians 14:1-5:** Guidelines and the proper use of speaking in tongues.
- **Mark 16:17:** Speaking in new tongues as a sign that will follow believers.

5. Discussion Questions:

- How can we ensure that we focus more on our relationship with God rather than the spiritual gifts we receive?
- Why might different people have different experiences with the Holy Spirit?
- What are some ways we can encourage each other in our spiritual gifts without creating a hierarchy or sense of comparison?

6. Closer

1. **Action Item:** Suggest that over the next week, participants pray for deeper intimacy with the Holy Spirit, seeking His presence and power in their lives.
2. **Focus for Closing Prayer:** Pray for each person to have a fresh encounter with the Holy Spirit that deepens their faith and understanding.

Lesson 4: The Role of the Holy Spirit in Salvation and Identity

1. Hook/Ice Breaker

Activity: “Spiritual Blueprint” - Provide building blocks or LEGO bricks and instruct the youth to build something that represents their life. Discuss how each piece might symbolize different aspects of their identity and experiences. Relate this to how the Holy Spirit is the master builder who knows and assembles the blueprint of our salvation and true identity.

2. Central Verse: “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.” Romans 8:11 (NKJV)

3. Body of the Lesson

1. Salvation as a Work of the Spirit:

- **Initiator of Conversion:** Illustrate the Holy Spirit’s role in convicting individuals of sin and drawing them to Christ, leading to salvation (John 16:8-11).
- **Regeneration and Renewal:** Discuss how the Holy Spirit works in the believer’s life to bring about the new birth—regenerating our spirit and renewing our mind (Titus 3:5).

2. Identity in the Spirit:

- **New Creation:** Describe how the Holy Spirit’s indwelling redefines a believer’s identity, making them a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- **Adoption as Children of God:** Explore the concept of believers being adopted into God’s family, with the Holy Spirit affirming their identity as God’s children (Romans 8:15-16).

3. Living by the Spirit:

- **Guidance and Sanctification:** The Holy Spirit guides believers in truth, helps in prayer, and leads the process of sanctification, making us more like Christ (Galatians 5:16-25).
- **Empowerment for Service:** Highlight how the Holy Spirit empowers believers for service and witness, equipping them with spiritual gifts (Acts 1:8).

4. Additional Scriptures for Exploration:

- **Ephesians 1:13-14:** The Holy Spirit as a seal and a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance.
- **Galatians 4:6-7:** The Spirit in our hearts crying out ‘Abba, Father’.

5. Discussion Questions:

- How does the presence of the Holy Spirit within us affect our daily lives?
- In what ways have you experienced the Holy Spirit’s guidance or conviction?
- How does understanding our identity in the Spirit change the way we interact with the world and other people?

5. Closer

1. **Action Item:** Encourage participants to reflect on their spiritual identity throughout the week and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas in their lives that need alignment with this truth.
2. **Focus for Closing Prayer:** Pray that each person will experience the Holy Spirit’s power in both transforming them and confirming their identity as children of God. Ask for the courage and strength to live out this identity in their daily lives, being led by the Spirit in all things.

Lesson 5: Receiving the Holy Spirit - A Promise for All

1. Hook/Ice Breaker

Activity: "Promise Pledge" - Have each participant write down a promise they've made to someone and discuss how it felt to keep or, if applicable, not keep that promise. Then, contrast our human promises with the nature of God's promises, highlighting their certainty and reliability.

2. Central Verse: "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" Acts 2:38 (NKJV)

3. Body of the Lesson

1. The Promise of the Holy Spirit:

- **For All Believers:** Emphasize that the promise of the Holy Spirit is inclusive, meant for all who follow Christ regardless of background, culture, or past.
- **God's Faithfulness:** Reflect on the trustworthiness of God's promises, including the promise of the Holy Spirit, as seen in the biblical narrative.

2. Steps to Receiving the Holy Spirit:

- **Understanding the Promise:** Begin by acknowledging the Holy Spirit as a promised gift rather than something earned (Joel 2:28).
- **Exercising Faith:** Discuss the importance of faith in God's Word and promises (Hebrews 11:6).
- **Repentance:** Address the need for repentance as a step toward receiving the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).
- **Surrender and Obedience:** Discuss the posture of surrender to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in every aspect of life (Galatians 5:16-17).

3. Living in the Spirit:

- **Daily Renewal:** Explore the need for continual infilling of the Holy Spirit, seeking to be filled daily.
- **Walking in the Spirit:** Discuss what it means to 'walk in the Spirit' and how it contrasts with following the desires of the flesh.

4. Additional Scriptures for Exploration:

- **Luke 11:13:** Jesus teaching about how the Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask.
- **Ephesians 5:18:** The command to be filled with the Spirit.

5. Discussion Questions:

- What does the promise of the Holy Spirit mean to you personally?
- How can we position ourselves to be receptive to the Holy Spirit?
- In what ways can we encourage one another to walk in the Spirit?

6. Closer

1. **Action Item:** Invite participants to commit to daily prayer specifically for the infilling of the Holy Spirit and to be attentive to His work in their lives throughout the week.
2. **Focus for Closing Prayer:** Pray for a hunger and thirst for the presence of the Holy Spirit in each participant's life. Intercede for the fulfillment of God's promise of the Holy Spirit in the lives of all present, that they may each experience the joy and power that comes from His indwelling.