

## NOTES

## BIG IDEA + THEOLOGICAL EMPHASIS

The Holy Spirit is not a late arrival in God's story. He has been present from creation, active throughout Scripture, and because of Jesus, now lives permanently in every believer.



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## OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your presence with us today. Open our hearts to hear Your voice and help us grow in our understanding of the Holy Spirit. May we not simply learn about Him, but grow in relationship with Him. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## OPENING QUESTION<sup>(OPTIONAL)</sup>

If you could have one person by your side throughout your entire life—someone who knew you completely and always wanted the very best for you—how might that change the way you live each day?

## WORD

### Genesis 1:2

“The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

### Ezekiel 36:26–27

“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you... And I will put my Spirit within you...”

### Joel 2:28–29

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh...”

### John 14:16–17

“He dwells with you and will be in you.”

## CONTEXT

Many people think of the Holy Spirit as appearing only in the New Testament, but the Bible tells a much bigger story.

From the opening pages of Genesis, the Spirit of God is present and active. He brings life, order, beauty, and God’s presence into creation.

Throughout the Old Testament, God’s people experienced the Spirit’s power, but usually for specific seasons and assignments. The prophets looked forward to a day when God’s Spirit would no longer come upon a few people temporarily, but would live within all God’s people permanently.

Jesus declared that this promise was about to be fulfilled. Through His death and resurrection, the way was opened for every believer to become a dwelling place of God’s Spirit.

The story of the Holy Spirit is ultimately the story of God’s desire to be with His people.

## MAIN REFLECTION POINTS (REFINED)

### 1. The Spirit Was There From the Beginning

The Holy Spirit appears in the very first chapter of the Bible, hovering over creation and bringing life where there was chaos.

**Key Thought:** The Spirit is not God’s backup plan. He has always been part of God’s work in the world.

**Takeaway:** You are not an afterthought to God, and neither is the Spirit’s work in your life.

### 2. The Old Testament Points Toward Something Greater

Under the old covenant, the Spirit came upon certain people for certain purposes. The prophets longed for the day when God would place His Spirit within all His people.

**Key Thought:** God’s plan was always moving toward deeper relationship.

**Takeaway:** Understanding what believers once lacked helps us appreciate what we now have through Christ.

### 3. Jesus Shows Us Spirit-Empowered Living

Jesus lived His earthly ministry in complete dependence on the Holy Spirit. He not only saves us—He shows us what a Spirit-filled life looks like.

**Key Thought:** Jesus is both our Saviour and our example.

**Takeaway:** Growing in Christlikeness means learning to live in step with the Holy Spirit.

## MAIN REFLECTION POINTS (REFINED)

### 4. The Cross Made Us God's Dwelling Place

Because of Jesus' sacrifice, sin no longer separates us from God's presence. The Holy Spirit now permanently dwells within every believer.

**Key Thought:** Salvation is not only forgiveness; it is restored relationship.

**Takeaway:** God doesn't simply visit His people—He lives in them.

### 5. Pentecost Fulfilled God's Promise

When the Holy Spirit was poured out in Acts 2, Peter recognised it immediately as the fulfilment of Joel's prophecy.

**Key Thought:** Pentecost was promised long before it happened.

**Takeaway:** God always keeps His promises, even when the fulfilment takes generations.

## GOSPEL CONNECTION

The good news of the Gospel is not simply that our sins can be forgiven. Through Jesus, we can be reconciled to God and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38 tells us:

“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

If you have never placed your trust in Jesus, today is an opportunity to begin that relationship.

## CLOSING PRAYER

Holy Spirit, thank You for being present from the beginning and for now living within us through Jesus. Help us to walk closely with You, listen to Your voice, and reflect Jesus in our everyday lives. May we carry Your presence into our homes, workplaces, neighbourhoods, and cities. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## MISSIONAL ACTIVATION

### Personal Challenge

Once each day this week, pause before a decision, conversation, meeting, or challenge and simply acknowledge the Holy Spirit's presence.

Pray:

“Holy Spirit, thank You that You are with me and in me. Help me follow Your leading today.”

### Kingdom Challenge

Acts 2:39 reminds us that God's promise extends to those who are still far from Him. Identify one person you can intentionally pray for this week. Ask God to show you how you might encourage, serve, or share His love with them.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Observe

1. What stood out to you most from today's Scriptures and discussion?
2. What surprised you about the Holy Spirit's role throughout the Bible?

### Reflect

3. How does knowing the Holy Spirit has been present from creation change your view of Him?
4. Why do you think God desired not only to be with His people but to live within them?
5. What difference does it make to know that the Holy Spirit permanently dwells in believers today?

### Apply

6. In what area of your life do you most need to become aware of the Holy Spirit's presence and guidance?
7. What is one practical way you can intentionally walk with the Holy Spirit this week?