

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Feb 3, 2019

In The Power of The Spirit

Pastor Johnson 8:15, 9:30, Pastor Hall 10:55

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Anything to share about the past week? About follow-ups from last Sunday, on Investing In The Eternal?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Opener Questions: When have you felt either under-or over-estimated because of where you were from or who you were related to? (Question by Lyman Coleman)

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Luke 4:14-21. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. ¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- Verses 14 and 18 mention “the power of the Spirit” and “the Spirit of the Lord is on me.” Earlier in Luke, the Spirit is also present in the baptism of Jesus and the Spirit drives him in the wilderness to

be tempted by the devil for 40 days (Luke 3:22, 4:1). In light of these verses, how would you describe the relationship between Jesus and the Spirit?

- How was this relationship similar to and different than our relationship with the Spirit as followers of Christ?
- Some have said that in verses 18-19, Jesus was presenting his job description as messiah at the beginning of his public ministry. How would you describe the vision for his ministry that is being cast here?
- In sharing about Father Boyle's book, *Tatoos on the Heart*, Pastor Johnson said "Jesus comes in the power of the Spirit so that nobody will be thrown away" and "God does not throw people away." How is the value that Jesus placed on human life made clear in these verses as well as in the ministry of Jesus that followed?
- How did the Spirit empower such ministry in Jesus' life? How about in our own lives?

Other Related Scriptures (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read John 16:7-15. The word "trinity" does not appear in the Bible, yet there are passages like this one that suggests interdependent relationships between the Son and the Spirit as well as the Father. In what ways are we as followers of Christ dependent on the Spirit (vs 8, 13, 15)?
- What has "the Spirit [made] known to you" lately (vs 15)?
- How are we to discern the voice of the Spirit in this loud culture we are in and know which messages are from Christ and the Spirit?
- Do you think it is too bold a thing to say the Spirit is upon you or in you in similar ways that the Spirit was with Jesus? Why or why not?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional scripture above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- Jesus had a clear vision to what he was being "sent" to do. What unique task(s) do you believe God is sending you to do?
- The Wesleyan Covenant Prayer begins "I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee..." Do you have something to share with the group about the ways you sense the Spirit leading you to serve God or grow in faith in 2019?
- The Ministry Opportunities in 2019 cards in the bulletin from Sunday are also available at the church welcome center to help connect you with ministries as the Spirit leads you. Would you care to share how you responded or plan to respond on your card?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- Have you ever examined your life from the point of view of what "power" you have been given? In what ways can how we use "power" be a positive Christian witness and not a negative one?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.