

Engage the Spirit #4



Engaging the Spirit's Renewal

David Staff

Part of Connect Group Questions

September 16, 2018

Engaging the Spirit's Leading - Romans 8

This Week's Teaching Idea: *It's normal for the Spirit of God to lead us in living a life that expresses the very life and righteousness of Jesus*

GETTING STARTED

Take a few opening minutes to think about these words from Jesus. What do you think he meant? How would you define the underlined words? How would you explain the meaning of his words to someone interested in following Jesus?

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart,

and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

—Matthew 11:28-29

Here are some additional questions to discuss:

- do the Christians you know experience more "labor and heaviness" or more "rest for the soul"?
- what's your experience like? When have you felt a freedom in your walk with God? And what in life tends to steal some of that freedom?

IN THE WORD

While the role of God the Holy Spirit is to put the spotlight on the Lord Jesus Christ—both in the world and in our lives—**He himself is still crucial to our daily living in the world and before our Father.** What follows are some key NT passages about the presence and help of the Spirit in our everyday living.

Describe what Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would bring was to the early disciples...

- **Acts 1:6-8**

What did the disciples experience when the Spirit came? Was it burdensome, or joyful? A duty or a delight?

- **Acts 2:1-4, 17, 33,38** (note: Luke mentions the Holy Spirit over 50 times in the book of Acts)

Romans 8 talks about the tug-of-war between the flesh and the Holy Spirit. It's also described in **Galatians 5:16-26**. How has the Holy Spirit helped you overcome some of the “flesh-y” things in your walk with Jesus?

Finally, **2 Corinthians 3:17** says “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” As the Spirit of God has led you, how have you experienced that freedom? “Freedom to...”

As you think about the things you’ve discussed...which of these are most important to you personally?

MY LIFE - OUR MISSION

To finish up, take some final minutes to share with one another what you have discovered using the Engage the Spirit 60+ Day Devotional. Have you found it helpful to grow in your dependence upon the Spirit? Has there been one devotional that you found particularly helpful?

Pray for one another...and for our entire CCC team. Pray that we will

- a) grow in our corporate dependence upon the Holy Spirit
- b) Take significant steps either to ENRICH our families or to REACH out to an international

Pastor David Staff

p.s. **LEADER GUIDE** on Back

IF YOU'RE LEADING THIS STUDY...

September 9-16, 2018

Engaging the Spirit's Leading - Romans 8

3 Insider Insights:

- ✔ **Remember** that the key question is "What's normal when we are being led by God's Spirit?"
- ✔ Take some time with the **GETTING STARTED** section. Mine people's insights about **why living religiously can become so burdensome**. What is Jesus offering by contrast?
- ✔ Focus especially on **how the Holy Spirit can help us replace** the expressions "of the flesh" with the "fruit of the Spirit." Encourage group members to talk about the change and freedom the Holy Spirit brings into life.

A helpful **CONNECT GROUP LIFE** idea:

"Never Tell when you can Ask" (from Deena Davis, *Best Small Group Ideas*).

*It's the method of "thinking backward." First, decide what you would like the members in your group to **KNOW**, **FEEL**, and **DO** by the end of the study. For example, "By the end of this study I want people to **know** what to do when they **feel** anxious. I want them to identify any anxiety they are experiencing now and share it with the group. I want them to apply Philippians 4:6-7 by praying for the needs people have in the group.*

For this week's study, you might say, "By the end of this study

- *I want people to **know** that the Holy Spirit was given to provide the power we need to live and share Jesus*
- *I want them to **feel** that the tug between what their flesh wants and what the Spirit wants is normal!*
- *I will encourage them in the moments of battle to stop, pray, and ask afresh for the Spirit to replace the flesh with the Fruit (**do**)!*