

APPENDIX:

PRAYERS, PRACTICES & RECOMMENDED READING

Filling of the Spirit: How to Ask and Receive

Scripture Anchor: "Be filled with the Spirit." —Ephesians 5:18 "How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" —Luke 11:13

Being filled with the Holy Spirit isn't a one-time moment; it's a daily, ongoing invitation. Jesus tells us our Father loves to give the Spirit, and Paul urges believers to keep being filled. This isn't about striving or emotion, it's about surrender, receptivity, and relationship.

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we become more aware of God's nearness. We receive fresh courage, peace, joy, and power. We're cleansed, strengthened, and awakened to God's voice and mission. We live with a clearer sense of God's love and the freedom to share it.

Here's a simple guide to help you practice asking and receiving:

1. Wait with Expectation

Make time to sit in God's presence. You might want to play worship music or sit in silence. Take a posture of stillness and invitation. "Come, Holy Spirit."

2. Ask with Honesty

Talk to your Father. Tell Him you want more of His presence and power. Don't worry about saying it perfectly. Just be honest and humble. "Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I want all You have for me."

3. Receive with Openness

Let go of control. Trust that He knows what you need. Be open to His peace, joy, tears, silence, conviction, or power. You don't have to feel something dramatic. Just welcome what He gives.

4. Yield with Faith

Listen for His voice. Yield your body, heart, and mind. Follow His lead; whether He prompts you to pray, repent, move, rest, or speak. "I surrender. I trust You. I receive."

This rhythm is for any time: in your quiet time, during worship, before a big conversation, or in the middle of your day. Keep asking. Keep receiving. The Spirit loves to fill what is offered.

Recommended Reading

- Walking with God John Eldredge
- Naturally Supernatural Gary Best
- Putting Jesus on Display with Love and Power
 Brian Blount
- Liberated: Set Free and Staying Free from Demonic Strongholds – Rodney Hogue

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H-A-L-F Prayer Posture

This posture helps guide your heart and approach during ministering prayer. We simply bring our part and trust Him to do the rest. (While the acronym spells "HALF," it's not a 50/50 partnership, God does the heavy lifting.)

H – Humility

We don't assume we have all the answers. Even when we sense something from God, we offer it gently and with care. Avoid saying, "God told me..." Instead try, "I wonder if God might be showing..." Always give room for the person to respond.

A - Authenticity

Be yourself when you pray. Use your own words. Speak clearly and simply. Let your tone match your heart. God responds to sincerity, not style.

L – Love

Our job is not to fix people; it's to love them. Maintain eye contact, stay present, and show kindness through your words and posture. Ministering prayer is always grounded in compassion.

F - Faith

Faith is spelled R-I-S-K. Expect that God is going to do something. Trust that He is already at work. Even if you don't feel anything, He is moving. Take a step and see what God does.

LORDSHIP PRAYER

Based on Psalm 139:23–24
Search me, O God, and know my heart.
Test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Jesus, I give You full access to my life today. I surrender my mind, my desires, my relationships, and my decisions.

I choose to trust You and follow You in every area. Where I have held control, I now release it. Where I have doubted, I now believe You are good. Fill me with Your Spirit, and lead me in Your way. I belong to You. Amen.

WELCOME!

Whether you're exploring faith for the first time, coming back to Jesus, or longing for a deeper life with God, this journey is for you.

Over the next six sessions, we'll discover what it means to live by the Spirit—to walk daily in God's presence, hear His voice, move in His power, and reflect His love. This isn't just a study about the Holy Spirit. It's an invitation to encounter Him. We believe life in the Spirit is the normal Christian life. It's how Jesus lived, and it's how we're invited to live; empowered by God's Spirit, rooted in the Father's love, and sent to bring the Kingdom near.

Throughout this series, we'll explore how to:

- Experience the Holy Spirit as God's personal presence
- Grow in intimacy with the Father through the Spirit
- · Walk in authority, power, and love
- Hear God's voice and follow His lead
- Demonstrate the Kingdom of God in everyday life
- Embrace a lifestyle of prayer, mission, and revival

The Spirit is already at work in you. This is your invitation to say yes; to surrender, listen, risk, and receive.

Let's discover together what it really means to live by the Spirit.

"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." — Galatians 5:25

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When we experience the Father's love through the Spirit, our identity becomes secure and our lives overflow with compassion.

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Jesus shares His authority with us through the Spirit so we can walk boldly and humbly in His mission of restoration.

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Prayer is where presence meets power. The Spirit teaches us to listen, intercede, and respond in real time to what God is doing.

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ABCs of Hearing God's Voice

Use these questions to discern if what you're hearing might be from God:

A – Aligns with Scripture

Does it reflect God's Word and character?

B – Builds Up

Does it encourage, strengthen, or comfort? (1 Corinthians 14:3)

C – Connects to Jesus

Does it draw someone closer to Christ and His heart?

P-R-B Model of Ministering Prayer

This simple pattern helps guide Spirit-led prayer for others.

P-Presence

Invite God into the moment. Pause to acknowledge Him. "Come, Holy Spirit." "God, we welcome You."

R – Revelation

Listen two ways; what the person says and what God is showing you.

Ask, "Lord, what do You want to reveal?" $\,$

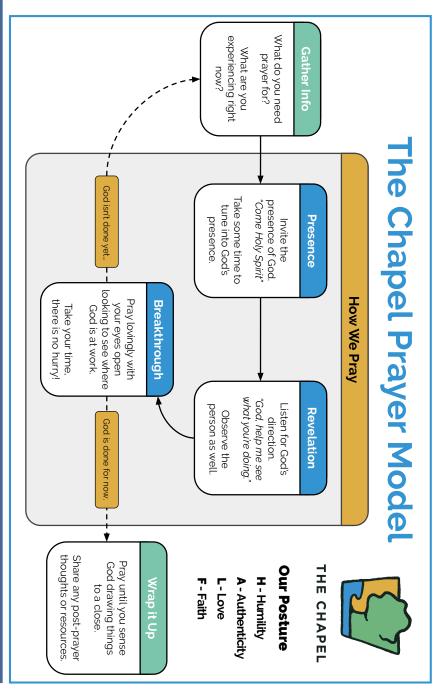
Stay open to a word, Scripture, image, emotion, or physical response.

B – Breakthrough

Pray boldly for what the Spirit is showing.

Ask for healing, peace, clarity, deliverance, or whatever God highlights. You can pray more than once. Stay present and trust the process.

APPENDIX:PRAYERS, PRACTICES & RECOMMENDED READING



DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

COME REGULARLY: Building a strong relationship with Jesus and others in your group begins with showing up consistently. Your presence matters—not just for you, but for the entire group. Be present, not perfect—come as you are and be open to learning, growing, and encouraging one another along the way.

PARTICIPATE: Your story and experiences reflect the character of God. Sharing what He is doing in your life helps others grow in their faith and deepens relationships within the group. Listen actively and seek to understand before responding. Honor differences and recognize that everyone brings a unique perspective to the conversation.

KEEP IT SAFE: We are all responsible for creating a space where everyone feels heard and loved. Give room for others to share by listening well and responding with kindness. Avoid quick answers or judgments and focus on offering support and encouragement. *Let's be patient and gracious, understanding that spiritual growth takes time and everyone is on their own journey.*

CONFIDENTIALITY: What's shared in the group stays in the group. Protecting each other's honesty and vulnerability fosters trust and growth. *Respect and honor one another's stories with care and discretion.*

KNOW & BE KNOWN: Take time to listen and truly know one another. As you do, you'll have opportunities to pray, encourage, and see God's Kingdom advance in each others' lives. Commit to praying for your group members throughout the week, trusting that God is at work in every season of life.

Note for Group Leaders: If a serious concern arises—such as harm to a person or a need for further pastoral care—encourage the individual to seek support from a pastor or bring it to a pastor's attention yourself.
Ensuring safety and care is a priority for our community.

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HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

KEY TRUTH:

Each session highlights a central truth about how the Holy Spirit invites us into daily life with God. He empowers us to love, speak, act, and live in ways that reflect Jesus and bring the Kingdom to earth.

READ:

Spend time in Scripture, noticing how the Holy Spirit is revealed. Pay attention to what stands out. Highlight words or phrases that stir your spirit or invite a response.

REFLECT:

Talk with your group about how the passages show the Spirit's presence, power, and purpose. Consider how these truths connect with your life right now and where God might be inviting you to trust Him more deeply.

RESPOND:

Share honestly about how the Spirit is prompting you. Reflect on what this week's truth means for your relationships, your identity, and the way you live. Be open to both encouragement and challenge.

BREAKTHROUGH (Let's Pray Together):

Make space for the Holy Spirit to move. Pray for one another. Listen for God's voice. Ask for boldness, healing, clarity, or power. Let this be a time of real encounter with God's presence and love.

NEXT STEPS:

Choose one way to keep walking with the Spirit this week. This could be reading Scripture, praying for someone, listening for God's direction, or acting on something He showed you. Practice responding to His presence throughout your everyday life.

- 4. What does it mean to you to "join what the Father is doing" in prayer?
- 5. Who is one person you feel drawn to intercede for more intentionally this week?

BREAKTHROUGH (Let's Pray Together):

Let's practice prayer that makes space for the Spirit to speak and move. You may want to sit quietly, open your hands, or write what comes to mind. We'll walk through the **PRB model** together:

P – Presence:

Begin with a moment of silence. Simply pray: "Come, Holy Spirit." Invite God into this space and into your heart.

R - Revelation:

Ask the Spirit:

- "What do You want me to know right now?"
- "Who are You inviting me to pray for today?"

Stay open to Scripture, a word, a picture, or a prompting; and gently share anything that feels Spirit-led.

B – Breakthrough:

Pray for what the Spirit revealed. Speak encouragement, hope, healing, or clarity. If you're in pairs or a group, listen and pray with faith for what God wants to do.

Closing Prayer:

Holy Spirit, thank You for being with us. Help us listen well, love boldly, and pray with expectation. Move through us to bring freedom, healing, and peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

☐ Practice the PBR model three times this week. You can do it alone or with a friend. See the Appendix for a full walkthrough.
☐ Memorize Romans 8:26–27. Let it strengthen you when you don't know how to pray.
☐ Start a prayer rhythm. Text a friend and commit to pray with them weekly-before a class, over voice memo, or in person.
☐ Use the Lordship Prayer (Appendix) to realign your heart and intentions before praying for others.
☐ Fast from a distraction. Set aside one comfort this week (like social media, entertainment, or sugar) and use that space to intercede for someone in need.

SESSION SIX

Partnering in Prayer

READ:

John 5:17–20 John 14:12 Romans 8:26–27

(Additional Readings: James 5:16; Romans 8:26–27; Acts 4:29–31; Matthew 6:9–10; 1 Corinthians 13:12)

Key Truth:

Prayer is where presence meets power. God moves in real time as we partner with the Spirit in honesty, humility, and faith. The Spirit teaches us to pray with love, boldness, and clarity; discerning what God is doing and partnering with Him to bring breakthrough.

KFY TRUTH

The Christian life is not meant to be lived in our own strength.
From the beginning, God designed us to live in daily
partnership with His Spirit; empowered by His presence,
filled with His love, and sent with His authority.

DISCOVERING THE HOLY SPIRIT

We invite you to be open to how the Holy Spirit may speak, whether through Scripture, others, or prayer. We're here to listen to God and one another.

REFLECT:

Jesus never ministered alone. Though fully God, He chose to pray, to wait, and to partner with the Father. Every miracle flowed from intimacy, not independence. He said, "The Son can do nothing by Himself." That same rhythm of presence and power is offered to us.

We learn to listen, wait, discern, and trust through prayer. It's more than speaking to God; it's being with Him. Sometimes we intercede for others from a distance. But in ministering prayer, the person is right there, and we ask the Spirit to move in real time.

We don't have to feel qualified to pray. God is already present and working. Prayer simply invites us to join Him in His work.

One straightforward way to grow in Spirit-led prayer is through the "Presence, Revelation, and Breakthrough" model. In this rhythm, we pause to welcome the Spirit, listen for what He's doing, and then pray into it with faith and love. A fuller description is available in the Appendix.

- Prayer is not performance; it's participation in God's presence.
- Ministering prayer is a partnership of listening and responding.
- Jesus modeled dependency and invited us to do the same.
- The Spirit prays through us, even when we feel weak or unsure.
- We are invited to join the conversation between Father, Son, and Spirit.
- Our role is to show up with humility, authenticity, love, and faith.

RESPOND:

- 1. What helps you feel confident when you pray for others? What tends to make you hesitate?
- 2. Have you ever sensed God working while you were praying for someone? What did that feel like?
- 3. What part of the PRB model (Presence, Revelation, Breakthrough) feels most natural to you? Which one stretches you the most?

SESSION ONE Made to Walk with the Spirit

READ:

Acts 3:1-10

(Optional supporting verses Ephesians 2:10; John 14:12; Acts 10:38)

Key Truth:

The Holy Spirit invites us to do the same works Jesus did; not on our own, but through divine partnership. God has prepared good works for us, and the Holy Spirit empowers us to walk in them.

REFLECT:

In the Gospels, Jesus healed, delivered, forgave, and restored. He did not do these things out of His divine power but through the power of the Holy Spirit. Scripture tells us the same Spirit now lives in us.

The Holy Spirit is not an optional part of the Christian life. He is essential. Through Him, we are invited to continue the ministry of Jesus in the world. We do not do ministry for God; we do it with Him.

Peter's story is compelling. Just weeks earlier, he had denied Jesus in fear. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he became bold, compassionate, and ready to act. That same Spirit lives in us. God never meant for us to be spectators. He wants to partner with us in bringing healing and hope to the world.

- God has always wanted to work through people, not apart from them.
- He created you for a purpose and has already prepared good works for you to walk in.
- The same Spirit that empowered Jesus empowers us today.
- Partnership with the Spirit starts with availability, not perfection.

RESPOND:

- 1. What kinds of "Jesus-things" might the Spirit want to do through you?
- 2. Think of a time when you sensed God nudging you to act. What happened, and how did you respond?
- 3. What helps you recognize the Holy Spirit's prompting in your life?
- 4. What holds you back from believing God wants to partner with you?
- 5. Where do you want to grow in courage, trust, or obedience?

- 4. Where is God inviting you to bring His Kingdom this week... in your home, friend group, workplace, or community?
- 5. What helps you stay aware that you are sent by Jesus and filled with His Spirit?

BREAKTHROUGH (Let's Pray Together):

Ask the Spirit:

- "Where are You sending me this week?"
- "Who needs to experience the Kingdom through my words or actions?"
- "What part of me needs to come under the rule of Your Kingdom again?"

As you pray:

- Ask the Spirit for boldness to proclaim and humility to serve
- Speak out the name of someone you feel led to bless
- Pray: "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done; in us, through us, and around us"

Closing Prayer:

Holy Spirit, thank You for sending us with power and purpose. Let Your Kingdom come through our words, our actions, and our love. Show us who to serve, what to say, and how to act in step with You. Amen.

☐ Plan a "Kingdom moment." Ask the Spirit to highlight one person or space where you can bring God's presence this week through serving, listening, or loving action.
☐ Proclaim with creativity. Share something true about Jesus; through a conversation, a text, or even a social post. Keep it natural but intentional.
☐ Demonstrate with courage. Offer to pray for someone's need, show up to serve, or be present in a situation others avoid. Let action speak.
☐ Read Luke 4:18–21. Jesus describes His mission. Ask the Spirit to highlight which part of that mission you're called to walk in right now.
☐ Journal a "Kingdom collision." Where did you see the gospel proclaimed and demonstrated this week; through you or someone else?

SESSION FIVE

Bringing the Kingdom Near

READ:

Matthew 10:5-8 John 20:21-22

(Additional Readings: Mark 1:15; Matthew 6:10; Luke 4:18–21; Romans 14:17; Acts 10:38)

Key Truth:

Wherever you go, the Kingdom goes with you. Life in the Spirit means living as a sent person; proclaiming truth, demonstrating compassion, and making God's reign real in everyday moments.

REFLECT:

Jesus didn't just preach good news, He demonstrated it. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and set people free. His words and actions revealed that the Kingdom of God was not a distant idea but a present reality breaking into the world.

He then turned to His followers and gave them the same mission. In Matthew 10, He sent them to proclaim the Kingdom and demonstrate it by healing, delivering, and loving with power. In John 20, He sent them again, breathing His Spirit on them to make it possible.

This is still our calling. The Spirit empowers us to do what Jesus did: speak truth, bring hope, care for the hurting, and live with compassion and boldness. When we live this way, the Kingdom of God comes near through us.

- The Kingdom is both proclaimed and demonstrated by word and action together.
- Jesus passed His mission on to His followers and then gave them His Spirit.
- Wherever we go, we are carriers of God's presence, power, and purpose.
- Our lives become signs of God's reign when we act in love, power, and truth.
- The Kingdom advances every time love, justice, and healing are released through us.

RESPOND:

- 1. What does "the Kingdom of God has come near" mean to you in everyday life?
- 2. When have you seen God's Kingdom show up through compassion, healing, or justice?
- 3. Which comes more naturally to you; sharing truth or showing compassion? Why do you think that is?

BREAKTHROUGH (Let's Pray Together):

Ask the Spirit:

- Where are you inviting me to partner with you this week?
- What fear or hesitation do you want to replace with trust?
- Who are you asking me to see with compassion and respond in love?

As you pray:

- Ask for boldness to follow the Spirit's leading.
- Pray for freedom from fear or passivity.
- Bless one another with courage, clarity, and joy to walk with the Spirit.

Closing Prayer:

Holy Spirit, thank You for speaking to us. Fill us again with Your presence and power. Help us walk closely with You this week, saying yes to whatever You ask. We want to live lives that show the beauty of Jesus. Amen.

☐ Read John 16:7. Why would Jesus say it's better that He leaves so the Spirit can come? Reflect on what this says about your partnership with the Spirit.	
☐ Slow down and pay attention. Ask the Spirit to help you notice someone around you this week. Pause, pray silently, and ask, "God, what are You doing, and how can I join You?"	
☐ Journal this question: What "Jesus-things" might the Ho Spirit want to do through me? Write whatever comes to min even if it feels small or surprising.	_
☐ Try listening prayer. Set aside 5–10 minutes to ask God question and write down what you sense. Use the ABCs of Hearing God's Voice (see Appendix) to discern what you he	
☐ Take one step of obedience. If you feel a nudge to speal serve, or pray for someone, say yes. Start by trusting that God is already at work and just inviting you in	۲,

SESSION TWO

Living from the Father's Love

READ:

Romans 8:14-17

(Additional Readings: John 3:16, John 5:19-20, John 15:9-12)

Key Truth:

Everything flows from knowing God as Father and when we experience the Father's love through the Spirit, our lives and ministry spring from that secure identity.

REFLECT:

Jesus lived in constant communion with the Father. Every miracle, word, and act of compassion flowed from that relationship. He didn't act independently; He only did what He saw the Father doing. That same intimacy is now ours through the Spirit.

When we receive the Father's love, we begin to live from a place of belonging rather than striving. The Spirit helps us cry out, "Abba, Father"; an intimate name like "Dad" or "Papa." We stop performing for God's approval and start living as loved sons and daughters.

From that place of love, compassion begins to flow. We start to see people through the Father's eyes. Ministry becomes less about pressure and more about presence. The more we receive, the more we have to give.

- "Abba" is a relational cry, not a distant title.
- The Spirit helps us experience God as both Lord and loving Father.
- Our identity as beloved children shapes how we live, serve, and respond.
- Compassion isn't an optional add-on; it's the natural overflow of a heart rooted in love.
- We don't minister to earn love; we minister from it.

RESPOND:

- 1. When you hear "Abba, Father," what emotions or images come to mind?
- 2. Describe a moment when you felt the love of God in a personal way. What made it real?
- 3. What keeps you from receiving God's love as deeply as He wants to give it?
- 4. How might seeing others through the Father's heart change your posture toward them?
- 5. Where do you sense the Spirit inviting you to grow in compassion, toward yourself or someone else?

BREAKTHROUGH (Let's Pray Together):

Ask the Spirit:

- What gift do you want to stir up in me right now?
- Where do you want to release your power through me this week?
- Is there someone you want me to pray for, encourage, or serve?

Pray for one another:

- Ask the Spirit to fill each person with boldness and love.
- Pray over any gifts the Spirit highlights... prophecy, wisdom, healing, encouragement, or others.
- Pray over one another's gifts and calling. Bless what God is doing.
- Listen and stay open; if someone senses a word, Scripture, or image for another, humbly offer it and pray into it.

Closing Prayer:

Holy Spirit, thank You for living in us. Fill us again with boldness, wisdom, and power. Make us ready to love, serve, and speak with Your strength. Use us to show the world who you are. Amen.

- ☐ Explore a spiritual gift. Reread 1 Corinthians 12:4–11 and pick one gift you're drawn to. Look it up in Scripture or ask a mentor how they've seen it at work in their life.
- ☐ **Ask before you act.** Each morning this week, pray: "Holy Spirit, how do You want to use me today?" Write down or take a voice note of anything you sense.
- ☐ **Step into a moment.** If you feel prompted to pray for someone, speak encouragement, or serve in a specific way; go for it. Don't overthink it. Just trust and obey.
- ☐ **Worship in response.** Set aside 10 minutes this week to worship. Ask God to refill you as you pour out. Suggested songs:
- Fresh Wind (Hillsong Worship)
- Holy Spirit (Francesca Battistelli)
- Same God (Elevation Worship)
- ☐ **Reflect on power through obedience.** At the end of the week, journal or discuss: Where did I step out? What did I learn about the Spirit and about myself?

SESSION FOUR

Empowered to Serve

READ:

Acts 1:4-8 **1 Corinthians 12:4–11**

Acts 2:1–4; Romans 12:6–8; 1 Peter 4:10–11; John 14:12)

(Additional Readings: Ephesians 5:18;

REFLECT:

Before Jesus returned to the Father, He told His followers to wait, not for a plan, but for power. The mission He gave them would not be fueled by passion or personality alone. It would require the presence and empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

Key Truth:

The Spirit fills us with power, not

just to feel something... but to do

something. Spiritual gifts aren't

reserved for the few. They're

given to every believer to reveal

Jesus, build up the Church, and

bless the world.

At Pentecost, the Spirit came with power. From then on, ordinary people began to speak boldly, perform miracles, and live with supernatural courage. That same Spirit is still available to us today.

The Spirit gives every believer spiritual gifts. Some are part of how we're wired... like teaching, mercy, or discernment. Others are given in the moment, like healing, prophecy, or words of knowledge. These gifts aren't for status or performance. They're given to build up the Church and reveal Jesus to the world.

Think of it like a hose connected to a source. When the end is open, water flows. When we make ourselves available, God pours His power through us, and the more we pour out, the more He pours in.

- Power is not something we earn. It's a gift we receive.
- The Spirit gives different gifts to different people, but always for the same purpose: to reveal Jesus.
- Living Spirit-empowered means expecting God to move through you, not just around you.
- When we give away what God gives, He refills us again.

RESPOND:

- 1. Have you ever experienced the Holy Spirit working through you in a way that surprised you? What happened?
- 2. What spiritual gift have you seen in someone else that encouraged or inspired you?
- 3. Which spiritual gift are you most curious about or drawn to? Why do you think that is?
- 4. What holds you back from stepping out in Spirit-led boldnessfear, doubt, comparison, or something else?
- 5. Where in your life right now could you ask the Spirit to move through you with power for someone's healing, encouragement, or freedom?

BREAKTHROUGH (Let's Pray Together):

Ask the Spirit:

- "Father, how do You see me?"
- "What lies am I believing that keep me from Your love?"
- "Who needs Your compassion through me today?"

Pray for one another:

- Ask for a fresh experience of the Father's love.
- Invite healing where there has been distance or wounding.
- Pray for soft hearts, renewed trust, and Spirit-led compassion.

Closing Prayer:

Holy Spirit, thank You for revealing the Father's heart. Help us live as sons and daughters, deeply loved and fully known. Let compassion flow through us into a world in need. Amen.

- ☐ **Journal your "Abba" moment.** Spend 5 minutes each day asking, "Abba, how do You see me?" Write down anything you sense, even if it feels small.
- ☐ Read the Compassion of Jesus handout (see Appendix). Notice what moved Jesus and how He responded. Ask the Spirit to form that heart in you.
- ☐ Worship in response to love. Use these songs to connect with the Father:
 - Run to the Father (Cody Carnes)
 - Father Me (Chapel Music Fellowship)
 - Good Good Father (Chris Tomlin)
- ☐ Pray using a personal name for God ("Abba," "Dad," or "Papa"). Try it in one prayer this week and reflect on how it impacts your connection with Him.
- ☐ **Take a step of compassion.** Ask the Spirit to show you one person who needs encouragement, kindness, or care this week, and follow through.

SESSION THREE

Carrying Kingdom Authority

READ:

Luke 10:1–9 Matthew 28:18–20

(Additional Readings:: Genesis 1-3, healing, and truth. 1 John 3:8, John 10:10, Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 9:1-2, Ephesians 6:12-18, John 5:19-20, Luke 10:19, Galatians 2:20, 1 John 4:4, Isaiah 61:1-3, Matthew 10:7-8)

Key Truth:

Jesus shares His authority

with His followers so we can

continue His mission. Life in

the Spirit means living under

God's rule and carrying

His authority into a world

still in need of light,

REFLECT:

God created the world in perfect unity. Heaven and Earth were aligned under His loving rule. But when sin entered through Satan's deception, that unity was broken, and a spiritual battle began. The enemy's agenda has always been to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). But Jesus came to restore what was lost and reclaim what the enemy distorted.

The Father gave Jesus full authority. Empowered by the Spirit, He healed, forgave, delivered, and brought hope. Every action pushed back darkness and made space for the Kingdom of God to break in. But He didn't keep that authority to Himself. He trained and sent His followers to carry on the mission, with the same Spirit and the same authority.

Today, we are invited into that same partnership. Not in our strength, but by the Spirit of God living in us, we are called to bring light, freedom, and healing into a world still in need.

- Jesus ministered in authority, not independently, but in constant partnership with the Father.
- His purpose was to destroy the works of the enemy and restore God's rule on Earth.
- He passed His authority on to His followers, and that includes us.
- Spiritual authority isn't about control or ego. It flows from submission to Jesus and obedience to the Spirit.
- When we partner with the Spirit, we carry the Kingdom into everyday spaces.

RESPOND:

- 1. Do you believe there is a real spiritual battle happening in the world? Where do you see signs of that in everyday life?
- 2. Jesus came to destroy the works of the enemy. How do you think He's still doing that through His people today?

- 3. What's one way the enemy tries to steal, kill, or destroy in your life or community? How do you see God pushing back in that same space?
 - 4. When you think about carrying spiritual authority, what feels exciting? What feels intimidating?
 - 5. How could you partner with God this week to bring His Kingdom into a real situation... at school, at work, or in a relationship?

BREAKTHROUGH (Let's Pray Together):

Ask the Spirit:

- "Where are You inviting me to walk in Your authority this week?"
- "What fear or hesitation do you want to remove from my heart?"
- "Who are you sending me to with your love and truth?"

As you pray:

- Declare truth over each person: "Jesus has given you authority to bring His Kingdom near."
- Ask the Spirit to increase boldness, clarity, and humility.
- Speak encouragement over the specific situations or people God has brought to mind.

Closing Prayer:

Holy Spirit, thank You for giving us the authority of Jesus. Fill us with faith to speak truth, love boldly, and bring Your Kingdom into every part of our lives. Teach us to walk in courage and humility. Amen.

☐ Read Matthew 10:7–8 and Luke 10:19. Write down what Jesus commands and what kind of authority He gives to His followers. Reflect on how that applies to your life this week.
☐ Take a "Kingdom risk." Identify one person or situation this week where you can speak truth, offer prayer, or bring peace. Ask the Spirit to lead you and step out in Jesus' name.
☐ Memorize Matthew 28:18–20. Let Jesus' authority and His promise to be with you shape your mindset and your courage.
☐ Pray the Lordship Prayer (see Appendix). Ask the Spirit to reveal any area where fear or self-reliance may be keeping you from walking in spiritual authority.
☐ Journal your "authority story." After you take action this week, reflect on what happened. What did you sense God doing? How did it feel to step out in partnership with Him?