THE HOLY SPIRIT – Your faithfulness

ICE BREAKER
What are you taking with you at the end of this series about the Holy Spirit? Which details can you remember well? What strengthened you personally?

SUMMARY OF THE MESSAGE

Taste and see that the LORD is good. The Bible - Psalm 34:8

If I speak in human or angelic tongues, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. The Bible - 1 Corinthians 13:1

Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion. The Bible - Proverbs 11:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The Bible - Galatians 5:22-23

Joy...rejoicing love
Peace...healing love
Patience...supporting love
Kindness...merciful love
Goodness...giving love
Faithfulness...reliable love
Gentleness...humble love
Self-control...surrendering love

1. Faithfulness: reliable love

Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive. The Bible - Titus 2:9-10

2. Gentleness: humble love

In your anger do not sin. The Bible - Ephesians 4:26

Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. The Bible - Matthew 21:12
3. Self-control: surrendering love

Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. The Bible - 1 Corinthians 9:25

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The Bible - Romans 8:1

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The Bible - Romans 8:5

If you love me, keep my commands. The Bible - John 14:15

PRAYER / TIME WITH GOD / WORSHIP / ...

The main thought of the preaching is that the fruit keeps you there where the gift leads you to. This means that the fruit is more important than the gift. Through the gift you get jobs and opportunities but through the fruit you will also be successful. That the fruit of the spirit grows is a gift from God alone. We can water, care for and nourish them, but they ultimately only grow thanks to God.

→ Today we will start with a time where God can inspire us personally. Make yourself comfortable and consciously turn off all distracting channels.
For the beginning worship, a common prayer or a suitable Bible verse are very helpful.

We consciously will not put a goal for this time. Each person should simply enjoy this time with the Holy Spirit in his/her way and where he/she stands in life at the moment.

After about 15-30 minutes the smallgroup leader concludes this time and you share, if suitable, about various experiences/thoughts you had during this time. Take enough time and then continue with the topics that the Holy Spirit has brought up.

SHARING, REFLECTION

Now we come to the three remaining Fruits of the Spirit, “faithfulness”, gentleness” and “self-control”. These three characteristics especially reveal themselves under pressure and over a longer period of time.

One thought is the movie “Evan Almighty”.
Just imagine God would sit down next to you and you ask him for “gentleness”. Would God then simply give you a packet with gentleness or the opportunity to learn to be gentle in important situations?

So be conscious that is you ask God for a characteristic in your life then be ready to let God coach you.

Faithfulness:
The Greek word “pistis” also means faith and reliability besides faithfulness. This fruit often grows where nobody else sees it.
→ Tell each other about unseen moments in life where this characteristic was revealed.
Gentleness:
This does not mean to always be sweet and nice. Being gentle means being considerate. It also means to only show anger (not violent temper) at the right moment and never at the wrong moment. For example in the case of injustice, see Matthew 21:12 where Jesus throws out the merchants from the temple or his disputes with the Pharisees, for example Matthew 12:34. (Or also the Old Testament prophets such as Elijah or Jeremiah)

→ Which things in your life make you angry and which ones do you think are justified from God’s point of view?
→ How do you channel and test your anger? How could you possibly hinder it in advance?

Self-control:
In the preaching it became very clear that this is not about an outer control, but about a SELF-control. Sadly we often hear negative examples that the lifestyle of people is tested and controlled by their church. This control mostly happens because of fear.
For example when there in an addiction we should strengthen the self-control of an individual person and not take over an outer control in matter of the addiction.

→ In which situations do you recognize the fruit of self-control?
→ In which situations do you still lack the fruit of self-control?

Conclusion
Choose a suitable conclusion for this smallgroup meeting.

Ideas:
- Blessing prayer from a participant instead of the smallgroup leader.
- Read the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:24-27.
- Intersession prayer of the current topics.
Small group programme ICF Zurich: THE HOLY SPIRIT

HEARTBEAT for small group leaders

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus went away and he came in his place. For many he is a mystery. But is this really what he is?

In this series we want to get to know the Holy Spirit better. He came to support, help and stand by us. Let’s discover who he really is.

A totally natural series about the supernatural Holy Spirit.

Best wishes,
Your small group team

Preparation:

Test your goals:
(1) The goal of the small group work is to help people strengthen their personal relationship with Jesus and live in real fellowship with one another.
(2) Which people in my small group do I encourage to be leaders? Which opportunities to practice do I provide for them?
(3) Which goal do I set for the small group meeting?

Apply these three values to your small group:
Community, experiencing God, multiplication (internal and external growth).
Consider how these three values are put into practice in the next small group meeting.

Pray for your small group:
- Pray for your members and their concerns.
- Pray that each has an encounter with God and that you may all achieve your goals together.
- Consciously submit yourself under God’s leadership so that the evening may take place according to his will.

Plan your small group meeting:
- Consider what you will delegate (administration, hospitality/food, prayer, worship, input …).
- Everybody should be informed where and when the meeting is taking place. Communication is a matter of leadership!

Count on God’s presence:
“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.” Matthew 18:20