

NORTH STAR | LEADER'S GUIDE | WEEK 4

OUTLINE OF EACH NORTH STAR GROUP MEETING

- Start each group on time
- 10 minutes: each person has 2 minutes to share how their past week went, including a report on their weekly practice (in Week 1, we will not discuss this)
- 40 minutes: discuss the content from that week
- 10 minutes: Close in prayer, praying over the specific concepts of the group

WEEK 4 – BIG IDEAS

In Week 4, we learn about the gospel and the Holy Spirit, and discover that God is more committed to us than we are to him.

- Day 1 (It's Worse Than You Think): Without Jesus, we will lead a meaningless life and die a hopeless death
- Day 2 (Use This Gospel): The gospel is the good news that Jesus brings hope to death and meaning to life
- Day 3 (Better Than Jesus): We can have three relationships with the Holy Spirit – convicted by the Holy Spirit (every human), indwelt by the Holy Spirit (every follower of Jesus), empowered by the Holy Spirit (the baptism of the Spirit)
- Day 4 (Presence / Transformation / Power): The Holy Spirit empowers us with the presence of God, transformation from God, and power to walk in the mission of God.
- Day 5: (A Life That Invites): Learning about the practice of evangelism (inviting people to Jesus).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **How was your time in Prayer this week?**
2. On Day 1, we learned that King Solomon discovered that every endeavor without God is ultimately meaningless (Ecclesiastes 2:11). **Have you ever thought something was going to bring you meaning or happiness, only to discover that after achieving it, you were still unsatisfied? Why do you think that is?**
3. **What is the gospel and why is it important?**
 - *The gospel is the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It brings us hope in death through the forgiveness of our sins and meaning in life through the presence of God.*

- *In Week 2, we discovered that Jesus was our Perfect Sacrifice (he paid for our sins) and our Great High Priest (he brings us into the presence of God).*
 - *The gospel is significant because it is our only hope in life and death.*
4. Read Luke 4:1-2 and Acts 1:4-5. **What do you notice about Jesus' relationship with the Holy Spirit in these passages?**
 - *1: Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit. While he lived in a human body, he was directed by the Holy Spirit.*
 - *2: Jesus expects us to operate in the same way – directed by the Holy Spirit for each decision.*

 5. **What were the differences between the twelve disciples before and after they were filled with the Holy Spirit? What is the difference between the “indwelling” of the Holy Spirit and the “empowerment” of the Holy Spirit?**
 - *The indwelling of the Spirit happens with every believer. It means the Holy Spirit lives in us. The empowerment of the Spirit happens when we surrender our lives to the Spirit for him to use our lives in power to build his kingdom.*

 6. **What is one way the Spirit has already transformed your heart? What is one area that the Spirit wants to transform you right now?**

 7. **What area of God's mission are you operating in right now that requires the power of the Holy Spirit?**

 8. Ask your disciples if anyone would like to pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Don't force anyone. If someone doesn't want to, speak to them about it afterwards. Lead your disciples in the following prayer.
 - *1: Accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (if you haven't already)*
 - *2: Renounce all sin*
 - *3: Openly confess your renunciation of sin and acceptance of Jesus as Lord*
 - *4: Absolute surrender to God*
 - *5: Intently desire the baptism of the Holy Spirit*
 - *6: Definite prayer for the baptism with the Holy Spirit*
 - *7: Faith (believe that God has given us the gift)*

 9. Close by discussing Evangelism.
 - **Do you have any resistance or hesitancy about sharing your faith?**
 - **Who are one or two people you would like to share your testimony with?**