

Small Group Study Guide

“The Holy Spirit and Discernment” 1 Corinthians 2 | Joyfully Spirit-Filled Series | From Sunday November 10, 2019

Appetizer:

Question: If you could have any superpower what would it be?

Have someone read 1 Corinthians 2:11:

Paul concludes that because we have the Spirit of God, we can know the thoughts of God.

Talk about this reality, it is at the end of the day kind of like a superpower :)

Main Course:

Take turns reading 1-2 verses each and read 1 Corinthians chapter 2 together.

As you are reading pay attention for what the Holy Spirit's role is in us knowing God's thoughts

After reading ask: So what is the Holy Spirit's role?

Question:

In the sermon we examined vs. 9, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind can conceive.” We see in vs. 10 that when we have the Spirit we can then see, hear, and conceive spiritual realities.

Amongst the group talk through these realities, and share stories and experiences where the group has seen this kind of activity in their Christian walk. Talk about spiritual dreams, and visions, words of knowledge, or great revelations. Has anyone heard God's audible voice?

Dessert:

In the conclusion of the sermon we discussed how at times we see the idea of knowing God's thoughts abused. Statements like “God told me we need to do it like this” being the fuel for disorder in the church. Or people justifying sin saying, “God told me it was OK.”

Discuss amongst the group situations or experiences where you have seen this.

Acts 15 records a time in church history where there was a steep disagreement regarding whether or not the Gentiles that had chosen to follow Jesus must be circumcised or not. It was such a dispute that a council was struck to discuss the options. At the final decision a letter was written to the Gentile believers with the final resolution. In that letter it stated that the resolution “felt good to us and to the Holy Spirit.”

That is a strategic statement, as they began with heated debate and ended in unity, all including the Holy Spirit were in agreement. This is the work of the Holy Spirit.

James talks in detail about the fruits of human wisdom in comparison to God's wisdom from above.

Take a moment to read as a group James 3:13-18

When done spend some time contrasting the fruit of both human wisdom and Godly wisdom (fun fact: the Greek word for wisdom makes a great name for a baby girl “Sophia”)

In conclusion:

I have turned James 3:17 into a prayer.

Have someone pray this prayer over your group

Lord Jesus we receive your wisdom revealed to us by the Holy Spirit would you please make us pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. In Jesus name Amen.