

Living Like A Christian

Topic: Filling of the Holy Spirit

Purpose of this study:

To give a basic understanding of the Spirit-filled life and to motivate the disciple to learn how to yield to the Holy Spirit each day, moment by moment.

Motivation for teaching this study:

With both Billy Graham and Bill Bright saying that 90 percent of the Christians in the United States are carnal, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out the importance of learning how to be a Spirit-filled Christian. Without the Holy Spirit at work in our lives, we will not grow as believers or see any spiritual fruit take place whatsoever. This may be the single most important thing you teach your students about how to live the Christian life. Understanding and practicing this truth separates the spiritually mature from the immature.

Introducing the Lesson:

Ask them "How many people do you think would claim to be Christians in your school?" "How many of those people actually live like they are Christians?" Then follow with, "Why is it so hard to live a godly life?" Try to keep the focus on living the Christian life as opposed to judging other people who do not measure up.

Teaching the Bible Study:

The way it's supposed to be... Jesus promised us an abundant and fruitful life in John 10:10. But most Christians (including adults) are not living that kind of life.

The way it can be... Try to come up with an example to transition between why Christians are not living the abundant life. Maybe an example from your own life of "trying to do it yourself" would be helpful here. The Apostle Paul in Romans 7 describes the struggle that goes on between the flesh and the spirit inside all of us.

The way it should be... Under being filled with the Holy Spirit, you can use many illustrations to make your point. For example when one is filled with the Holy Spirit, he simply lets God be in the "driver's seat" of his car. God controls the direction and has complete control over the car. Remember this is *part two* of spiritual breathing - the inhaling portion. Spiritual inhaling is merely asking God in prayer to fill and control us with His Holy Spirit. This can only be done when we have first confessed all our known sin. While there is no "formula" for being filled with the Holy Spirit, the main idea should be stressed of letting God have control our lives.

In Ephesians 5:18, we are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is not an optional command and it applies to every believer. God promises to answer us if we pray according to His will in I John 5:14-15. Therefore since God promises to fill us with His Spirit when we ask him to, we can know by faith that He has answered our prayer.

How do to it. This prayer is only a suggested prayer. One need not say this or any other certain prayer but merely yield control up to God. Encourage your students to pray with you and spiritually breathe.

How do you know you are filled? This is very important, as your students may not feel any different after they have prayed. Changes will happen in their life as they continually to practice spiritual breathing. A person need to be filled with the Holy Spirit every day and as often as they sin and take control of the throne of their lives. Practicing spiritual breathing every day is part of walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:25).

Closing the Session:

Students should be encouraged to breathe spiritually by confessing their sins (exhaling) and then by asking God to take control of our lives again (inhaling).

Evaluation:

Here are some questions to ask to see if your students have fully understood the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

1. What is the difference between having the Holy Spirit in you and being filled with the Holy Spirit?
2. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
3. What happens if someone experiences no signs or accompanying emotions, after asking to be filled with the Holy Spirit?