

**Instructions:**

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.



**Series: The Voice**

Our world is a noisy place, with many voices vying for our time and attention. Yet God has given his spirit of wisdom for guidance, comfort, and power. Throughout scripture, this Spirit is described as a hovering cloud, tongues of fire, wind, and also as a voice. How can we hear this voice over all the rest? How do we know if it is really the Holy Spirit? And how can we tap into its power available to us to continue the mission of Jesus in the world?

Join us for a 3-week series on the Holy Spirit and how to listen, experience, and engage the Spirit today.

**Message description:**

The Holy Spirit is mysterious in many ways. What is it? How does it work? We understand God the Father and Creator, we are comfortable talking about Jesus the Son, studying his teachings and following his way of life. But what about the Spirit? Scripture has described it as a spirit hovering over the waters, tongues of fire, a dove, a comforter, something that is always with us and within us. But how do we discern if it is really the work of the Holy Spirit?

In Romans 8, Paul offers teaching on the power of the Spirit and describes it to the church as a voice that helps us by interceding for us with groaning too deep for words. As creation groans in labor pains for the new creation, as we groan in our own seasons of suffering and longing, and even when we lose hope; the Spirit is suffering with us, groaning, and interceding in prayer. This is both a comfort and a power that gives us hope to endure. **The presence of the groaning Spirit demonstrates that God stays with the broken world all the way through to the end. But the end, in fact, is the new beginning.**

**Key Scripture**

*Romans 8:18-26*

### Questions Related to This Week's Message:

1. What do you think Paul means when he describes creation as "groaning in the pains of childbirth"? What does it mean that creation was "subjected to futility"?
2. How have you experienced the Spirit in times of your own suffering and groaning? How did you know it was the Spirit?
3. What difference does it make to you to know the Spirit intercedes for us in prayer?
4. What hope does this give you now and for the future?

**Please be intentional about praying together!**

**Consider joining us as a house group for one of our Thursday nights of prayer and worship throughout Lent.**



*Starting February 1 at 7pm, the pastoral team will open up the sanctuary for an intentional time of prayer and worship as we seek God's presence and guidance in this season. Let us not underestimate the power of our community coming together in an hour of need and to pray!*

### **Close in prayer:**

Pray together. Create intentional time and space to offer prayers for one another, that we might share in the comfort of Christ together and experience the Spirit's presence.

### **Consider the simple acronym of ACTS to guide your time of prayer together:**

- A- Adoration.** *Share praise reports or reasons to praise God. (Reading a psalm together can help)*
- C- Confession.** *Leave space to pray silently or individually to confess sins.*
- T- Thanksgiving.** *Share something in the group that you are thankful for this week.*
- S- Supplication, or petition.** *Share concerns and prayer requests you have.*