

## SAC Small Groups Discussion Guide – Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

This guide comes with the expectation that even if someone has missed the Sunday service, they have watched the sermon before coming to their small group.

### Fellowship Time

Make sure to have time where people can chat and catch up. This section could include a dinner together, having a potluck, preparing snacks, etc. The key to this section is make people feel welcomed and seen.

### Read the Scripture & Overview Aloud Together

This section contains the text and a brief summary of the sermon that was preached on Sunday. It will have the main point explained as a way to help those remember the sermon. This is not an in-depth overview because the expectation is that everyone will take the time to listen to the sermon. Make sure to read this aloud for everyone to hear.

#### **Text**

*Titus 3:4-7*

*4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

*Galatians 5:22–23*

*22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

*1 Corinthians 12:4-7*

*4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*

#### **Overview of Sermon**

*This week we wrapped up our mini-series on the Holy Spirit by looking outside the Gospel of John to provide more depth to our understanding of the third person of the Trinity. A.W. Tozer poised the question in his book, *How to Be Filled with the Holy Spirit*, which says, “Can’t I get along the way I am? Do I really need more than what I currently have?” The work of the Holy Spirit is often underestimated and under-utilized in the day-to-day life of many Jesus-followers. It is not unusual to find ourselves either content with our meager attempts at behavior modification or frustrated with our failed attempts at deep, lasting transformation. In recent weeks, we have explored that it is the Holy Spirit, third member of the Trinity, who initiates our*

*spiritual hunger. It is the Spirit that convicts of sin and draws us to Jesus. And it is the Spirit who teaches us and guides us. He attends to our inner condition, our heart, where He purifies, redeems, and transforms us into the likeness of Christ. This transformation is also known as the Fruit of the Spirit which produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control.*

*What the Spirit does within us is not solely for our own benefit. As our hearts are transformed and our lives reoriented around Jesus, others reap the benefit of our own spiritual development and growth. The Spirit gives spiritual gifts which can be categorized as the manifestation gifts, ministry gifts, and motivational gifts. The manifestation gifts are the supernatural expressions of the Holy Spirit, the ministry gifts are for leading, teaching and equipping the church, and the motivational gifts are gifts that are hardwired into us.*

*While these spiritual gifts are freely available to each Jesus-follower, it is important to note that there are obstacles that we can face along the way that may prevent or delay us in discovering or using our gifts for the good of our community. The first obstacle can be fear or lies which twist our understanding of who we are or who God is that prevents us from serving His body, the church. The second obstacle is passiveness because we don't know our gifts or don't know how to serve the church. The third is distraction where we are so busy that we have no margin or space in our schedule to serve. The final obstacle is immaturity that can present itself as wanting to do what we want, when we want to serve. Whatever the obstacle is, God's Spirit can and will lead us through the challenges to use our spiritual gifts for the common good of the church and the world.*

*\*There is a list on page 4 of this discussion guide with the various spiritual gifts listed.*

### Discussion Questions

These questions are prompts to help the group have meaningful dialogue over the sermon this past weekend. Do not feel the need to ask all these questions. You are more than welcome to create your own questions or mix the questions together.

#### **Connection to Other (Icebreaker/Light)**

- If you could research one topic for your full-time job, what would you choose and why?

#### **Connection to Head (Study/Knowledge Questions)**

- Read the passages in 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; Galatians 5:22-23; Titus 3:4-7. What do these passages teach us about the Holy Spirit and his character?
- Read Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-11; Ephesians 4:11-13. What do these passages teach us about spiritual gifts and the church?

### **Connection to Heart (Deeper Engagement)**

- The sermon identifies fear/lies, passiveness, distraction, and immaturity as obstacles to discovering and using spiritual gifts. Which of these obstacles do you most struggle with and why?
- The sermon described the Holy Spirit's work within us (fruit of the Spirit) and through us (spiritual gifts). Which aspect do you tend to focus on more? Which do you tend to neglect?
- The fruit of the Spirit is described as a byproduct of a Spirit-filled life rather than a checklist to earn God's love. How does this shift your perspective on spiritual growth and transformation?

### **Reflect and Discuss the Practice and Prayer.**

This is an opportunity for accountability and formation in your group. Accountability to ensure people are practicing the practices and formation because we believe that these practices will shape and form us into the people that God intended us to be. Take time to practice this together and reflect on each person's experience of these practices.

**Practice:** Practice discernment together in pairs or triads of the same gender. Pray through these prompts and answer the questions in your triads. Have one person read out the prompts, then spend 5 minutes in silence listening to God. Feel free to ask other people in your triads for feedback or if they heard something from God on your behalf.

- God, how do you desire to use me?
- What opportunities exist around me?
- What is one step that you desire for me to take this week, God?

**Prayer:** Loving God, I confess that I can't I get along the way I am. I need more than what I currently have. Holy Spirit, I invite You to work in me and through me. Reveal the opportunities for me to love and serve others and grant me the strength and ability to live as You equip and empower me for the common good. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **Prayer Together.**

Take some time to pray with each other. This is not a time for gossip or to be cynical, this is an opportunity to share with each other our burdens, to celebrate and praise God together, and to pray expectantly that God would move.

## Spiritual Gifts - Inventory

### Manifestation Gifts – 1 Cor. 12:8-11

- Wisdom - it means to speak to the life of an individual or to a specific situation with great understanding and a righteous perspective, with the goal of guiding others toward a life of holiness and worship.
- Knowledge - gift of knowledge allows a believer to relate the Scriptures, and particularly the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to all aspects of life in this world.
- Faith - have a trust and confidence in God that allows them to live boldly for Him and manifest that faith in mighty ways.
- Healing - the gift of conducting God's healing powers into the lives of God's people.
- Prophecy
- Discernment of Spirits – someone who can discern between the influence of God, Satan, the world, and the Spirit.
- Speaking in Tongues - Speaking in tongues is the utterance of prayer or of a message glorifying God and/or edifying the church in a language that is unknown to the one speaking it.
- Interpretation of Tongues - this spiritual gift is the supernatural ability to understand and explain messages uttered in an unknown language.

### Ministry Gifts – Eph. 4:11-13

- Apostle – Establishing and strengthening the church
- Prophet – Spokesperson for God's message
- Evangelist – preaching the Good News of Jesus
- Pastor – shepherds and cares for the church
- Teacher – instructs the word of God

### Motivational Gifts – Rom. 12:6-8

- Prophesying - hearing and speaking a message from God that is directed to another individual and group
- Serving – this gift has a special of humility as those with the gift serve to fill in the gaps or do the behind the scenes work
- Teaching – the gift of effectively teaching and applying the Word of God.
- Encouraging – someone who encourages, uplifts people to be reminded of the powerful work of God.
- Giving - love to share with others the overflow of blessings God has given them. They are typically very hospitable and will seek out ways and opportunities to help others.
- Administration – someone who steers, guides, or organizes a group of people.
- Mercy – those with this gift have great empathy for others in their trials and sufferings. They are able to come alongside people over extended periods of time and see them through their healing process.