

The Holy Spirit at Work: Small Group Guide

Week 1: Transforming Takeover

April 12, 2026

Icebreaker Question

Share about a time when you experienced significant personal change or transformation. What prompted it? How long did it take?

Sermon Summary

This message begins a mini-series on the Holy Spirit, exploring how the Spirit makes the resurrection practical in our daily lives. Pastor emphasized three key works of the Spirit: **creating believers**, **changing/transforming us**, and **commissioning us** as agents of transformation. The Spirit is described as more "coach than ghost"—an active, present guide in our lives 24/7.

Key Scripture References

- **Luke 3:22** - The Spirit descending bodily as a dove
 - **John 3** - Being born again of water and Spirit
 - **Romans 8:1-11** - The Spirit gives life
 - **2 Corinthians 3:17-18** - Transformed (metamorphosis) into Christ's image
 - **Galatians 5** - Walk by the Spirit; fruits of the Spirit
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Holy Spirit

1. The pastor noted we often give less attention to the Holy Spirit than to the Father and Son. Why do you think this is? What has been your personal experience with understanding or relating to the Holy Spirit?
2. The sermon described the Spirit's work as "internal" (compared to the Father's "eternal" work and the Son's "external" work). What does this distinction mean to you? How have you experienced the Spirit's internal work?

The Spirit Creates Believers (Spiritual Resurrection)

3. Read Romans 8:1-11 together. Count how many times "Spirit" and "life/living" are mentioned together. What does this repetition emphasize about the Spirit's role?
4. The message stated we don't need "self-improvement" but "spiritual resurrection." How does this challenge our culture's approach to personal growth? What's the difference?

5. For those who grew up in the church versus those who came to faith later, how might your experience of the Spirit "creating" new life differ? Share your story if comfortable.

The Spirit Changes/Transforms Us (Metamorphosis)

6. The caterpillar-to-butterfly metamorphosis was used to illustrate transformation. In the chrysalis stage, the caterpillar becomes "biological soup"—completely restructured. What does this suggest about the depth of change the Spirit wants to work in us?
7. Discuss this statement: "The Spirit helps you want to be like Christ more than what you want right now." Where in your life do you most need this shift in desire?
8. The pastor challenged the idea of saying "they'll never change" about someone. Have you written someone off as unchangeable? How does belief in the Spirit's transforming power challenge that perspective?

The Spirit Commissions Us (Agents of Transformation)

9. Read 2 Corinthians 5:20. What does it mean to be an "ambassador" for Christ? How does this role connect to the Spirit's work in you?
10. The church's vision includes "reaching a broken world." Who is one person in your life that the Spirit might be prompting you to reach? What's one practical step you could take this week?

Key Takeaways

- ✓ **The Holy Spirit is fully God**—a distinct person within the Trinity with specific, vital work in our lives
- ✓ **The Spirit creates believers**—performing spiritual resurrection, moving us from condemnation to inheritance as co-heirs with Christ
- ✓ **The Spirit transforms us**—working a "metamorphosis" to make us more like Christ, including developing fruits of the Spirit like self-control
- ✓ **The Spirit commissions us**—making us agents of transformation to reach others with the gospel
- ✓ **We must "keep in step with the Spirit"** rather than defaulting to internet searches, AI, or other sources for our primary guidance

Closing Prayer

Pray together using the pastor's closing prayer as a model, or have group members pray for specific needs that emerged during discussion:

"Father in heaven, we acknowledge how badly we need You, Spirit. We need that creative takeover work, we need that transforming work in our lives in increased ways. Open our hearts to where this needs to be more and more true. Help us to receive what the work of the Spirit is and then to lean into the Spirit more and more. Transform our hearts, our actions, our words, and our attitudes to align with Your work in our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen."