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Every Good Work

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HOW DOES
THE HOLY
SPIRIT
LEAD US IN
HIS GOOD
WORK?

The
POINT ➤

The Holy Spirit directs, guides,
and equips us for His good work.

➤ ACTS 15:36–16:12

³⁶ And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.” ³⁷ Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. ³⁸ But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹ And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹ And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

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¹ Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ² He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. ³ Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴ As

they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. ⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily. ⁶ And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷ And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. ⁸ So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰ And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. ¹¹ So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

The first Vacation Bible School was held in 1898 when Mrs. Walker Aylette Hawes established her “Everyday Bible School” to minister to children in New York City’s East Side.¹



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit leads believers in all areas of their lives for the glory of God.

One summer in high school, I signed up to help with Vacation Bible School at church. I thought I’d be handing out snacks or playing games, but instead they asked me to help with the preschoolers. I panicked—I didn’t think I was good with little kids. But after a lot of prayer, and a lot of preparation, I went for it.

The surprising thing is that each day got easier. I started learning the kids’ names, calmed them down when they cried, and helped them have a great week. By the end of that experience, I realized that as long as I made myself available to be used by God, I could reach even preschoolers for Jesus. I was shocked. I hadn’t done anything big, but somehow God used me.

That’s when I realized that the Holy Spirit helps us do things we didn’t think we could. He guides us, gives us what we need, and leads us to the right place at the right time. Sometimes His good work is loud and exciting. Other times, it’s quiet and comforting, like sitting with a scared little kid. But it all matters.

ACTS 15:36-41

1 Why do you think disagreements happen even among people who are committed to the same goal?

2 How important do you think it is to give people second chances, especially when they’ve made mistakes?

ACTS 16:1-5

3 Why do you think Timothy was willing to do something uncomfortable to make it easier to share the message of Jesus?

4 How can someone's background or experiences be a strength when it comes to helping others understand Jesus?

5 What do you think it means to be willing to step up and say yes to God, even when it's tough or risky?

ACTS 16:6-12

6 Why do you think God sometimes closes doors or stops us from doing what seems like a good thing?

7 How do you think Paul and his team were able to stay patient and trust God, even when their plans didn't work out?

8 What does it look like to be open to changing your plans when God leads you in a different direction?

*God doesn't
just guide us by
opening doors;
He also uses
closed ones to
lead us. #BSFL
StudentsSo
ThattheWorld
MayKnow*





LIVE IT OUT



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit leads believers in all areas of their lives for the glory of God.

In this session, students will learn that the Holy Spirit guides and directs every step, even when unexpected things happen. Many students would prefer to be in the driver's seat of their lives, but there is great freedom in the Holy Spirit's leadership. As tough as it may be to release control, God's way is always better, and He gave the Holy Spirit to us for our benefit. Encourage students with this truth today.

> CHRIST

9 Paul was guided by the Holy Spirit to different places to share the gospel. What are some ways Jesus still actively leads His followers today?

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD

10 Think about the phrase "good work." How is this work different from any other thing we can do?

› COMMUNITY

11 Paul and Barnabas decided to part ways to continue the work of God. How does this show that the Holy Spirit can lead believers to work in different ways but still accomplish the same mission?



12 What are some ways that the Holy Spirit uses teamwork in the mission?

› CULTURE

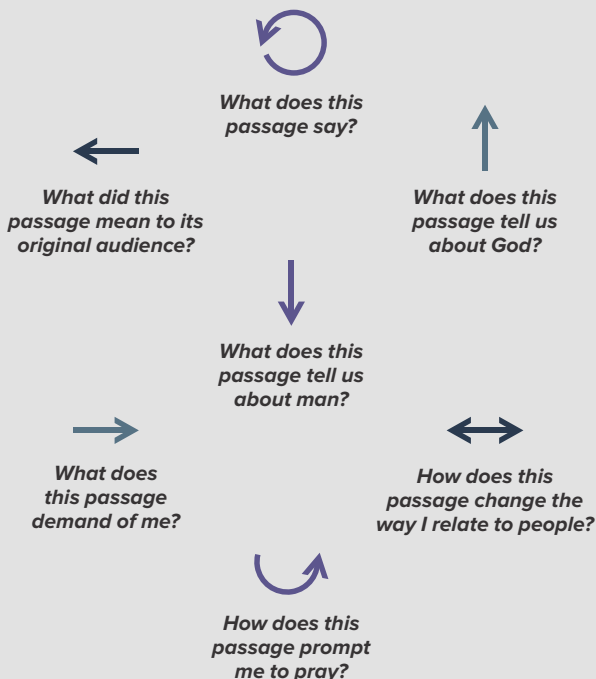
13 Paul had a vision that led him to Macedonia. Why is it important to follow God's leading in your life?

14 Paul and his team were led to new places with new people to share the gospel. How can the Holy Spirit lead you to share Jesus in new places or with people who are different from you?

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One EZEKIEL 36:26-27

God promises in Ezekiel that He will give us a new heart and a new spirit, replacing our stubborn, resistant hearts with one that is responsive to His leading. This transformation is made possible by the Holy Spirit who works within us to accomplish God's good work. The Spirit doesn't just guide us from the outside; He changes us from the inside, empowering us to walk in obedience and live according to God's will.

The Holy Spirit leads us gently by renewing our desires, shaping our hearts, and enabling us to do what we could never do on our own. He teaches us, convicts us, and reminds us of God's promises. As we yield to His influence, He directs us in how to love others, serve with humility, and pursue God's kingdom with passion. He leads us into a life of transformation. The Holy Spirit doesn't just guide us; He empowers us to become the people God designed us to be, living out His good work in the world.

- **How open are you to letting the Holy Spirit change your heart, even when it means letting go of old habits or ways of thinking?**
- **In what areas of your life do you sense the Holy Spirit calling you to follow His leading more closely?**

Day Two

ROMANS 8:14



In Romans, Paul reminds us that those who are led by the Spirit are children of God. The Holy Spirit doesn't just give us guidance from afar—He actively leads and shapes our lives, making us more like Christ. When we surrender to the Spirit's influence, He empowers us to live out God's will in ways we couldn't on our own.

The Spirit doesn't push us but gently leads us with love and wisdom, helping us navigate life. He brings clarity to our decisions, nudges us toward what is good, and convicts us when we stray from the path. His guidance isn't just about moral choices; it's about living in the fullness of our identity as God's children. He reassures us that we belong, reminding us we are loved and accepted. Living according to the Spirit means yielding to His promptings. It's through the Spirit that we find the strength, wisdom, and courage to step into God's purposes for us and fulfill His good work in the world.

- **In what ways do you notice the Holy Spirit gently guiding your choices?**
- **How can you become more aware of His voice in your daily life?**

Day Three

EPHESIANS 2:10

In Ephesians 2:10, we are reminded that we are God's masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works that He prepared in advance for us to do. The Holy Spirit plays a pivotal role in leading us into these works. The Spirit helps align our hearts with God's will, nudging us toward the good works He's already set before us. These works aren't just acts of service but ways we reflect His love, truth, and grace in the world. The Spirit empowers us to walk in them, strengthening us when we feel weak and giving us wisdom when we don't know what to do.

God's work in us isn't about our own effort or achievement; it's about cooperating with the Holy Spirit's transformation in our lives. When we live surrendered to the Spirit, we find ourselves stepping into the good works He has designed, bringing glory to God and fulfilling our purpose in His kingdom.

- **What good works might God be calling you to, and how can you be more open to the Holy Spirit's guidance?**
- **How does knowing you are God's unique masterpiece change the way you think about your purpose?**

Day Four

PHILIPPIANS 2:13

In today's passage, Paul reminds us that God is at work within us, both to will and to act according to His good purpose. This is where the Holy Spirit's role is vital. The Spirit doesn't just guide us externally—He works deeply within, shaping our desires and empowering our actions to align with God's will.

Sometimes we think we must muster up the strength to live a life pleasing to God, but the truth is the Spirit equips us to live out His purposes. He changes our hearts, giving us the desire to follow God's ways, and then empowers us to carry them out. Without the Spirit, we would be left to our own strength, which would never be enough. God's work in us isn't passive; it's active. He is continuously molding and empowering us, transforming our hearts and actions to reflect His glory. The more we yield to His leading, the more we can live out the good work He has called us to. It's His Spirit in us that makes this transformation possible.

- **In what areas of your life do you find it most difficult to rely on God's Spirit instead of your own strength?**
- **What might it look like to surrender those struggles to Him?**

Day Five

TITUS 3:5-6



Salvation is not something we achieve by our own efforts but is a gift from God, brought about by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit renews us, cleansing us from sin and pouring out God's love into our hearts. This passage highlights that the Holy Spirit's work in our lives is transformative. He doesn't just forgive us—He regenerates us and makes us new creations in Christ.

The Spirit's role is not just to save us but lead us into a life that reflects God's goodness and grace. He empowers us to live in a way that honors God, moving us from a life of self-centeredness to one of selfless service. The Holy Spirit's presence in our lives is a continual reminder that we don't walk this journey alone. He is the One who strengthens us, renews our hearts, and equips us for the good works God has prepared for us. As we surrender to the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, we're reminded that salvation is just the beginning.

- **How does knowing that salvation and transformation come from the Holy Spirit change the way you think about your relationship with God?**
- **In what ways can you invite the Holy Spirit to lead you in reflecting God's goodness and grace?**