

Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions

week of 5/24/26

Summary

This Pentecost Sunday sermon explored the transformative power of the Holy Spirit through personal testimony and biblical teaching. Dr. Kent Olney shared two pivotal moments when he experienced the 'unexpected, unstoppable, unmistakable, unexplainable, unforgettable invasion of the Spirit' - first as a 15-year-old in a Michigan church where the Spirit moved powerfully for three hours, and later during his doctoral defense at the University of Oregon where praying the Lord's Prayer with sign language brought God's presence into a secular academic setting. Drawing from Acts 2, the sermon described the Spirit's work as comprehensive (for all people), comprehensible (understandable despite being unexplainable), complementary (fulfilling Old Testament promises), and companionate (providing eternal fellowship with God). Dr. Olney emphasized four key preparations for experiencing the Spirit: loving and following Jesus, regular prayer, knowing Scripture, and waiting patiently for God's timing rather than relying on human activity.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we gather today with expectant hearts, knowing that You are the same God who moved powerfully at Pentecost and continues to work in our lives today. As we come together to study Your Word and share in fellowship, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us. Help us to be still before You, to listen carefully to one another, and to be receptive to the movement of Your Holy Spirit in our midst. May this time together draw us closer to You and to each other. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

Share about a time when you experienced something unexpected that turned out to be a blessing - it could be meeting someone new, discovering a hidden talent, or finding yourself in a situation that seemed challenging but ended up being positive.

Key Verses

- Acts 4:20
- Acts 2:4
- Acts 2:6
- Luke 24:49
- Acts 1:4
- Joel 2:28-32

Questions

1. Dr. Olney described the Spirit's invasion as 'unexpected, unstoppable, unmistakable, unexplainable, and unforgettable.' Which of these characteristics resonates most with you and why?
2. How do you think our busy, scheduled lifestyles might sometimes prevent us from experiencing the Spirit's presence? What practical steps could we take to create more space for God?
3. The sermon mentioned four preparations for experiencing the Spirit: loving Jesus, prayer, knowing Scripture, and waiting. Which of these comes most naturally to you, and which is most challenging?

4. Why do you think Jesus told His disciples to 'sit down' and 'wait around' rather than immediately going out to minister? What does this teach us about God's timing versus our own?
5. Dr. Olney shared how his mother experienced the Spirit's touch at home while the family was at church. How does this demonstrate that God's work isn't limited to church buildings or formal religious settings?
6. In what ways was the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost both a fulfillment of Old Testament promises and something completely new?
7. The sermon described the Spirit's work as 'comprehensive' - for all people regardless of background. How should this truth impact how we view and treat others in our community?
8. Peter and John said they 'couldn't help speaking about what we have seen and heard.' When have you felt compelled to share about God's work in your life, and what made that experience meaningful?

Life Application

This week, practice the discipline of 'sitting down and waiting' before God. Set aside 10-15 minutes each day to be still in prayer without any agenda - no requests, no worship music, no reading. Simply sit quietly and wait for God's presence. Pay attention to what He might be saying to your heart during these moments of stillness.

Key Takeaways

- The Holy Spirit's work is often unexpected, unstoppable, unmistakable, unexplainable, and unforgettable
- God's Spirit works comprehensively (for all people), comprehensibly (we can understand its effects), complementarily (fulfilling Scripture), and companionately (providing eternal fellowship)
- Four key preparations for experiencing the Spirit are: loving and following Jesus, regular prayer, knowing Scripture, and waiting patiently
- Our busy lifestyles and overbooked schedules can sometimes hinder our ability to experience the Spirit's presence
- The Spirit's invasion changes not just individuals but entire communities and can impact human history

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit who comes to comfort, guide, and empower us. As we leave this time of fellowship, help us to carry the truths we've discussed into our daily lives. Give us the courage to slow down and wait for Your presence, the discipline to prepare our hearts through prayer and Your Word, and the boldness to speak about what we have seen and heard of Your goodness. May Your Spirit continue to work in and through us to impact our families, our workplaces, and our communities for Your glory. We pray this in the powerful name of Jesus, Amen.