

STUDY GUIDE INTRODUCTION

THANK YOU

Thank you for being a part of The Wild Goose.

The Wild Goose is a work of the Holy Spirit, which is awakening in the hearts of all those participating God's love and transforming power. This is a love that has been revealed to us by Jesus Christ and that leads us to our heavenly Father. As you walk through this series I will continually be praying that you will encounter the Holy Spirit and that the Spirit will breathe life into your very being.

HOW TO WATCH

Pray. . . Come Holy Spirit. At this very moment, stop and ask the Holy Spirit to come to you.

If you allow him, the Wild Goose will lead you on an adventure greater than you can imagine. The Spirit will lead you to a place of mercy, healing, peace, and presence. The Holy Spirit has been given to us not as a possession to be tamed or controlled, but rather as a Person that will lead us to the Heart of God. The Wild Goose series will help you experience a deeper relationship with the Person of the Holy Spirit, and as you come to experience God's presence and power this very same Spirit will transform you and bring you freedom.

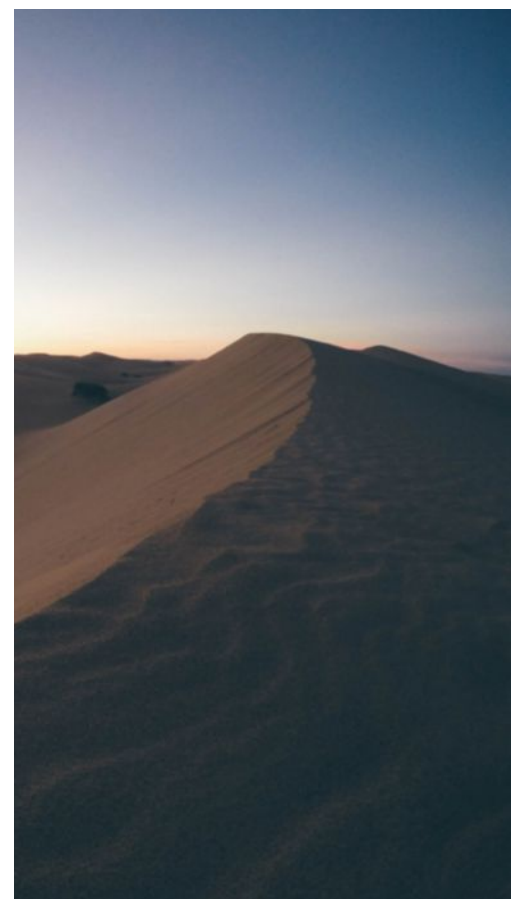
COME
HOLY
SPIRIT

THE WILD GOOSE



*"I AM SO EXCITED ABOUT
WHAT GOD IS GOING TO
DO IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH
THE WILD GOOSE."*

-FR. DAVE PIVONKA-



WHAT TO WATCH

The Wild Goose Series is fourteen independent segments dealing with different experiences of the Holy Spirit. For the most part, each segment stands on its own so you do not have to watch them in any particular order. However, **the first three segments** give a type of foundation to the others, so I would suggest that you start with these. After that, take a minute and ask the Spirit to lead you in what you should watch next. Listen to what the Spirit says and go with that!

While I certainly hope that you watch each segment, I would suggest that you not binge watch. Take your time working through the series. I can't encourage this enough, take your time and pray

at the conclusion of an episode. Each segment has a study guide that provides a very brief synopsis, key texts, discussion questions, and perhaps most importantly prayer and reflection ideas.

Please don't dismiss this section. I believe the blessing of this series will be directly related to how you are able to quiet yourself and pray. We need to make ourselves available to God's Spirit if we are going to be able to more fully experience his loving presence. Also, consider having a prayer journal where you can jot down thoughts and reflections as you make your way through the Wild Goose series.

*"THE HOLY SPIRIT IS
THE TRUE HOPE OF
THE WORLD."*

-POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II-



BY YOURSELF OR WITH OTHERS?

Both.

The series has been created to be a blessing to an individual who watches alone and to groups so it is not necessary that you be a part of a group. In fact, "alone time" is an important part of the series.

However, I would hope that you would also invite others to join you in journeying with the Wild Goose. Consider watching and discussing the contents of an episode with a few other people, friends, family, or couples from your parish. You do not necessarily have to watch it together at the same time and place; that may be nice, but not very practical. Nevertheless please think about inviting others to join you.

After watching each episode share your thoughts and reflections with each other over a cup of coffee or a stout, Facebook, a phone call, email, texts, or smoke signals: whatever allows you to talk about what you heard God say through the particular episode. This also provides an opportunity for you to share the fruit from your prayer and reflection. There is a great power in our ability to articulate and share what we see God doing. This is where the discussion questions and prayer section will very much come in handy.

I am so excited about what God is going to do in your life through the Wild Goose. You are always welcome to share testimonies of the wonderful things God is doing on my website: www.theWildGooseIsLoose.com

Once again, thank you for being a part of what God is doing. Be assured of my continued thoughts and prayers. Come Holy Spirit.

Fr. Dave

THE WILD GOOSE

WWW.THEWILDGOOSEISLOOSE.COM

GOD'S LOVE POURED OUT

SEGMENT 1

SYNOPSIS

“God is love”- 1 John 4:8

This simple statement is the beginning and the ending of our pilgrimage of Faith. God is Love and the Lord's Love is perfect, passionate and unconditional. There is nothing that we can do that would cause God to love us more and nothing we can do that would cause him to love us less. We are able to come to experience the beauty and freedom of God's Love by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God reveals the Love of the Father that changes us. When we experience God's Love we come to understand in a powerful way that we are in fact lovable. God's Love reveals our beauty and goodness before him.

DISCUSSION

1. How does the reality of God being Love change your view of God, love, and yourself?
2. All love is not the same. Consider for a few minutes the meaning that today's culture attaches to “love.” Compare this to the Love of God.
3. It is the Love of God that gives beauty and meaning to the human person. How do we experience this and share it?
4. What can you do to help facilitate a rediscovery of the Love of God and the dignity of the human person?

GOD IS
LOVE
1 JOHN 4:8

REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.

Take ten minutes of quiet prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to come. Don't be in a rush; ask and wait.

After a moment or two begin to slowly repeat: “God is Love.” Allow those words to fill your mind and heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to pour the Love of God into your heart.

Imagine your heart being opened and love being poured in. In a very quiet whisper, slowly repeat those words, pausing on each word of Scripture: “God - is Love.”



Photo By Alfredo Borba, via Wikimedia Commons

“ONLY THE **HOLY SPIRIT** CAN PROMPT YOUR HEART TO SAY ‘FATHER.’ ONLY THE **HOLY SPIRIT** OPENS YOUR HEART TO **LOVE.**”

-POPE FRANCIS-

KEY TEXTS

ROMANS 5:5 “The Love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

1 JOHN 4:8-11 “Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another.”

JOHN 4:4-39 The story of the Woman at the Well.

THE BREATH OF GOD

SEGMENT 2

SYNOPSIS

The only way we are able to live a life of faith, a life full of love, peace, joy and power is by the Holy Spirit. We see this most clearly in the lives of the Apostles. They had every advantage in being with Jesus and hearing him preach and seeing the many miracles that he had done. And yet, even with that advantage they were frightened men living their faith life in a locked room before they received the Holy Spirit. What took place in the upper room changed the lives of these men and women and would change the course of human history. This experience of the Holy Spirit is an encounter available to everyone; it is not reserved for a select few. Pentecost and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit is the theme of this segment.

DISCUSSION

1. Describe your relationship with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helped reveal who Jesus really was. How has the Spirit done this for you?
2. The Holy Spirit changed the lives of the apostles. What has been your experience of the Holy Spirit? Have you experienced tongues of fire, a driving wind or a breath?
3. Our faith life is not supposed to be lived in fear and in a locked room. Describe encounters with the Holy Spirit you have had that moved you out of a locked room.

RECEIVE
THE HOLY
SPIRIT
JOHN 20:23

REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.

Prayerfully read over the scriptures cited here. Take some time and ask that God would send you his Holy Spirit and give you peace.

After a few minutes ask that God would breathe life into you and pray that God would send upon you the Holy Spirit just as he did the apostles centuries ago.

Expect to experience God's peace, presence and love.

Holy Spirit, breath life into these dry bones.



"FOR THE **SPIRIT OF GOD**
HAS MADE ME, AND
THE **BREATH OF THE**
ALMIGHTY GIVES ME LIFE."

-JOB 33:4-

KEY TEXTS

ACTS 1:4-5 "John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

ACTS 2:1-7 "When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were..."

JOHN 20:19-23 "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"

BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT & FIRE

SEGMENT 3

SYNOPSIS

"He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire" - Mt 3:11

Jesus came to baptize us in the Holy Spirit, and the power and grace that comes from the baptism in the Holy Spirit changes lives. For the millions of Catholics worldwide who have had this experience it is a transforming grace that brings freedom, peace, and the very presence of God. Unfortunately for many Catholics the term "baptism in the Holy Spirit" is not a term with which they are familiar. In this segment we will discuss what the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is all about.



Photo By L'Osservatore Romano

*"LET US REDISCOVER,
DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
THE BEAUTY OF BEING
BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT"*

-POPE BENEDICT XVI-

DISCUSSION

1. What has been your experience of baptism in the Holy Spirit? Is this something new to you?
2. Discuss occasions where you have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in your life. When have you felt his peace? His fire?
3. What kind of words would you use to describe your relationship with the Holy Spirit? Fire? Power?

BAPTIZE
YOU WITH
FIRE
MT. 3:11

REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.

Find a time and place where you can quiet yourself. Spend some time letting go of things that may be troubling you or causing anxiety. One by one give them to the Lord. Take your time and be patient; there is no hurry.

If it's helpful write your concerns and anxieties down and then give them to the Lord. When you feel it is time, ask God to send his Holy Spirit upon you to baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire. Be open to experiencing God's love, peace, closeness, and possibly forgiveness. Let the Spirit of God overshadow you.

KEY TEXTS

MATTHEW 3:11 *I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire."*

MARK 1:8 *"... he will baptize you with the holy Spirit."*

LUKE 3:16 *"I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals."*

JOHN 1:33 *"... he is the one who will baptize with the holy Spirit."*

ACTS 1:5 *"...for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the holy Spirit."*

THE SPIRIT AND OUR LADY

SEGMENT 4

SYNOPSIS

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will **overshadow** you.” - Luke 1:35

Our Lady, from the moment of her conception, was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit. As the Spouse of the Holy Spirit she models for us what our lives can look like when we say “yes” to God’s will and fully give ourselves over to the actions of the Spirit of God. Mary’s fiat led her to the cross, the empty tomb and ultimately the upper room where she was once again overshadowed by the Holy Spirit. If we have the courage, as Mary did, to say yes to God’s Spirit, to surrender our will to his, we too will experience the power of the Most High overshadowing us.

DISCUSSION

1. Read the first chapter of Luke and discuss your reflections regarding the role of the Holy Spirit in the announcements of both John’s and Jesus’ birth.
2. When we read these texts it becomes clear that God had a plan and he uses various people, who submit to the Holy Spirit, to bring forth his plan. How is it apparent that God has a plan for your life?
3. How has God used you to bring about his plan in other people’s lives?

DO NOT
BE AFRAID
LUKE 1:30

REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.

The same Holy Spirit that overshadowed our Lady desires to overshadow you. Take some time in prayer and consider the role our Lady and the Holy Spirit had in the plan of our salvation.

Pray for the grace to echo Mary’s “yes” to the will of the Holy Spirit and pray that Mary would intercede for you.



“THUS SHE WHO IS PRESENT IN THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST AS MOTHER BECOMES- BY THE WILL OF THE SON AND THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - PRESENT IN THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH.”

-POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II-
REDEMPTORIS MATER #24

KEY TEXTS

LUKE 1:30-35 “Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus...”

LUKE 1:45 “...Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”

CCC 485 “The mission of the Holy Spirit is always conjoined & ordered to that of the Son. The Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of Life, is sent to sanctify the womb of the Virgin Mary...”

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

SEGMENT 5

SYNOPSIS

The greatest gift of the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit. The living God gives the gift of himself to those who are baptized. From the Spirit flows other gifts, some of which are for our personal sanctification while others are for the building up and support of the body of Christ. Many of the gifts are very familiar to us (wisdom, counsel, love) while others are somewhat foreign (healing, prophecy, tongues). Whatever our experience, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are for all Christians, and no one should think that the gifts are not for them.

DISCUSSION

1. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are to be experienced in our daily life and are generously given to us to help us with our Christian walk. How do you experience this?
2. Reflect on experiences that you have had where you were aware of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. What did you experience? Wisdom? Fortitude? Love? Peace? Hope?
3. It is essential that our stance before God is one of being open. What does it look like for you to approach the Lord with an open spirit? Are you open to receiving whatever God wants to give you?
4. Discuss how you see the Holy Spirit being active in the world today.

BE DOCILE
AND OPEN
TO THE SPIRIT.

REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.
Take fifteen minutes of personal prayer time. For the first couple of minutes do your best to quiet yourself; give to God whatever distractions you may have. Ask God to bring to life the gifts of the Holy Spirit that are present in you: the gifts received at baptism as well as new gifts with which God may want to bless you. Be open - let God bless and anoint you. In the following days and weeks pray for a sensitivity to the movement of the Holy Spirit. It may be in a nudge to call someone, to encourage someone. Someone may share with you that he or she is ill or has a loved one who is struggling; at that moment stop and pray for that person.



Photo By Alfredo Borba, via Wikimedia Commons

"THE SPIRIT HIMSELF IS 'GOD'S GIFT' PAR EXCELLENCE. A GIFT FROM GOD, AND IN TURN COMMUNICATES DIFFERENT SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO THOSE WHO WELCOME HIM."

-POPE FRANCIS-

KEY TEXTS

CCC 1830 "These (gifts) are permanent dispositions which make man docile in following the promptings of the Holy Spirit.☒

Lumen Gentium 4 "He both equips and directs with hierarchical and charismatic gifts and adorns with his fruits."

Lumen Gentium 12 "These charismatic gifts, whether they be the most outstanding or the more simple... are to be received with thanksgiving and consolation."

Christifideles Laici 21 "The Church is directed and guided by the Holy Spirit, who lavishes diverse hierarchical and charismatic gifts on all the baptized...☒

Scripture: Isaiah 11:2-3; 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 8:26,12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11.

THE SPIRIT AND THE EUCHARIST

SEGMENT 6

SYNOPSIS

"It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life." - John 6:63

The Eucharistic liturgy is saturated with the presence of the Holy Spirit. From the moment you decide to go to Mass the Holy Spirit is active and alive. Sadly, many people don't experience the Holy Spirit, and attending Mass becomes a chore for them rather than a life giving encounter with Jesus. In this segment we will look at a few of the many ways that the Holy Spirit is present in the Mass that will enable you to encounter God when you attend the Liturgy.

DISCUSSION

1. Why do you attend Mass?
Your desire to attend Mass is a grace of the Holy Spirit. Discuss the tension that may exist in whether or not to attend Mass. Where does that tension come from?
2. As Catholics we believe that Sunday Mass is spiritually the most important time of the week. Do you approach Mass in that light?
How do you prepare to attend liturgy?
3. In what part of the liturgy do you most experience God's presence?

THE SPIRIT
GIVES LIFE
JOHN 6:61

REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.

Spend some time prayerfully reading John 6:22-71. The Spirit helps us to more profoundly grasp the reality that Jesus is present in the Eucharist. Pray for this grace. Before you attend Mass next Sunday take a few minutes with your family to read and discuss Sunday's gospel.

Also, in the next couple of weeks try to attend Mass on a weekday. Arrive a few minutes early and ask the Holy Spirit to show himself to you in a new and profound way.



*"AT THE **CENTER** OF THE CHURCH IS THE **EUCHARIST**, WHERE CHRIST IS PRESENT AND ACTIVE IN HUMANITY AND IN THE WHOLE WORLD BY MEANS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT."*

-POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II-
GENERAL AUDIENCE SEPT. 1989

KEY TEXTS

JOHN 6:22-71 *The bread of life.*

CCC 1333 *"At the heart of the Eucharistic celebration are the bread and wine that, by the words of Christ and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, become Christ's Body and Blood."*

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 2

"Make Holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ."

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 3

"By the power & working of the Holy Spirit you give life to all things... by that same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought to you for consecration."

THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION

SEGMENT 7

SYNOPSIS

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, 'Abba, Father.'

- Romans 8:14-16

The Holy Spirit reveals many things to us. One of the most beautiful is the Spirit revealing God as our loving Father, our "Abba - Daddy." Jesus related to his Father as Abba and never before had God been spoken of in such personal and intimate terms. God as Abba is a uniquely beautiful Christian revelation. The Spirit of Jesus desires to free us from fear and a master-slave relationship to a Father-Daughter or Father-Son relationship.

DISCUSSION

1. What is your primary image of God and how do you relate to him? How is God personal to you? How do you approach God? Like a slave approaching the master or as a child approaching the Father?
2. There is an innate desire in each of us to be chosen. We have been chosen by God and God's Spirit wants to place this reality on our hearts. Discuss what it means that God, knowing everything about you, has chosen you as his adopted daughter or son.
3. It has been said that our relationship with God the Father begins with our earthly father. Discuss how God is both like and unlike your earthly Father.

REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.

Allow God to be your Abba. Take some time to be still and ask the Holy Spirit to calm your mind and heart. Then ask the Holy Spirit to show God as your loving Father.

Let God speak to your mind and heart about you being his son or daughter and how he delights in you. Imagine your heavenly Father telling you how much he loves you, how he is proud of you.

**ABBA,
FATHER**
ROMANS 8:16



*"THE HOLY SPIRIT CREATES IN US THIS NEW CONDITION OF BEING **CHILDREN OF GOD** AND THIS IS THE GREATEST GIFT WE RECEIVE FROM JESUS' PASCHAL MYSTERY."*

- POPE FRANCIS -
GENERAL AUDIENCE APRIL 10, 2013

KEY TEXTS

MATTHEW 18:12-14 *What is your opinion? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray. In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost."*

MATTHEW 6:26 *Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they?"*

THE SPIRIT AND THE SACRAMENTS

SEGMENT 8

SYNOPSIS

“Amen, amen I say to you, No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of the Spirit.” - John 3:5

The Sacraments are always an encounter with the Holy Spirit and each and every time we come to the Sacraments the Holy Spirit is present. Often times when we think of the Holy Spirit and His work in the Sacraments we only think of Confirmation. This is great, but the Holy Spirit is present in all of them. In this segment we will look at how the Holy Spirit is present in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and marriage and how this can impact your life.

DISCUSSION

1. Consider the beauty in the Sacrament of baptism; you have been created anew and brought into the center of the Holy Trinity. Baptism is the gateway to a life in the Holy Spirit. What does a life in the Holy Spirit look like? Not merely an experience of the Holy Spirit, but a life in the Holy Spirit. A baptized Christian's life should look different from a non-baptized. Does yours?
2. A grace of Confirmation is the ability to spread the faith by words and actions. Was this your experience of Confirmation? Perhaps that grace needs to be stirred up?
3. In Marriage the couple receives this Holy Spirit. What does it mean that the Holy Spirit is “the ever available source of their love”? For those married, how do you as a couple seek the Holy Spirit?

REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.

In baptism you have been grafted to Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to place on your heart that you have been baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Because of this, your soul is now branded, configured to Christ. It is not you who live, but Christ who lives in you.

Allow the Spirit to reveal Jesus' saving work in your life. For those married, pray for the grace of the Holy Spirit to be

more present in your marriage and look for signs of the Holy Spirit's work.

THE
GATEWAY
TO LIFE
CCC 1213



Photo by Reveth Culture

“HOLY BAPTISM IS THE BASIS OF THE WHOLE CHRISTIAN LIFE, THE **GATEWAY TO LIFE** IN THE SPIRIT AND THE DOOR WHICH GIVES ACCESS TO THE OTHER SACRAMENTS.”

-CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH 1213-

KEY TEXTS

ACTS 8:6-17 “...and prayed for them, that they might receive the holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the holy Spirit.”

CCC 1303 “The grace of confirmation, the specific effects of Confirmation are noted: an increase and deepening of baptismal grace: rooting us more deeply in the divine relationship which makes us cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ increasing the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us, and giving us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ.”

CCC 1624 “In this sacrament the spouses receive the Holy Spirit as the communion of love of Christ & the Church. The Holy Spirit is the seal of their covenant, the ever available source of their love & the strength to renew their fidelity.”

THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

SEGMENT 9

SYNOPSIS

"So by their fruits you will know them" - Matthew 7:20

By the way we live and how we treat people, our lives produce some type of fruit. The sort of fruit our lives produce has eternal consequences for us personally as well as a profound impact on those people we love. In fact, our fruit impacts all of our relationships, from the most casual to the most intimate. When we live animated by the Holy Spirit, our lives produce fruit that not only makes our own life more peaceful, patient, and loving but also influences positively those whom we encounter each and every day.

DISCUSSION

1. What words would people who know you best use to describe the fruit your life produces? How about those who are merely acquaintances? Is there a difference?
2. Obviously there is a tension between the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit. How and when do you experience this tension? When do you experience victory over the works of the flesh?
3. The fruits of the Holy Spirit are a visible sign of your relationship with God. Where do you see God working in your life?

LOVE, JOY,
PEACE
GALATIANS 5:22

REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.

Make some time when you are able to be quiet and still before the Lord. Invite the Holy Spirit to show you the fruit of your life.

The good things that you do are a grace of living a life led by the Spirit of God. There is also always room for greater conversion. God's Spirit is always available to you in order to bring forth new fruit in your life. Where is this most needed?

Pray that your relationship with the Holy Spirit would produce abundant fruit.



*"THE FRUITS ARE SIGNS
OR MANIFESTATIONS
THAT OUR LIFE IS BEING
TRANSFORMED OR
PERFECTED BY GOD."*

- CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH 1993-

KEY TEXTS

GALATIANS 5:17-23 *For the flesh has desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you may not do what you want. But if you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."*

THE SPIRIT AND THE DESERT

SEGMENT 10

SYNOPSIS

[Jesus] was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. Luke 4:1

On the day Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit anointed him. Immediately after this event the Holy Spirit led Jesus to the desert. The desert was a place of isolation, death and defeat but Jesus was led to the desert so that it may be forever changed. So that it may be a place of grace. The Spirit led Jesus to the desert and also protected and cared for him while he was there. The desert is a part of every Christian's life but it does not have to be a place of despair or isolation. The Holy Spirit is present to life's deserts and when we experience his presence it changes our spiritual life. The desert is no longer a place to be feared but can be a profound encounter with Jesus.

DISCUSSION

1. The Holy Spirit led Jesus and can lead us to the desert. Discuss what this might mean to you.
2. God does not tempt us, rather it is the evil one. How and when is the evil one most likely to tempt you? When do you experience victory over temptation?
3. Jesus is with us in the midst of our suffering and struggles. Discuss experiences you have had when you experienced his presence. How did this experience change your relationship with God?
4. Many people have a type of adversarial relationship with God, thinking that God is really out to get them or catch them doing something wrong. In Romans 8:31 St. Paul states that God is for us; he is not against us. Discuss this beautiful reality.

REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.

God is ever present; you are not alone. Take some time when and where you won't be bothered. Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of a difficult time in your life. This can be hard but trust that the Holy Spirit will lead you.

Reflect on that experience. Ask God to be light and to be truth, and ask Jesus to be present to whatever the Holy Spirit reveals. Finally, allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the love of God.

LED
BY THE
SPIRIT

LUKE 4:1



Image By François Gérard

"WE ALWAYS FIND THAT THOSE WHO WALKED CLOSEST TO CHRIST WERE THOSE WHO HAD TO BEAR THE GREATEST TRIALS."

- ST. TERESA OF AVILA -

KEY TEXTS

LUKE 3:21-22 "After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

LUKE 4:1 "Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil."

JAMES 1:13 "No one experiencing temptation should say, 'I am being tempted by God;' for God is not subject to temptation to evil, and he himself tempts no one."

ROMANS 8:31 "What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

THE SPIRIT CONVICTS

SEGMENT II

SYNOPSIS

“And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation: sin, because they do not believe in me” - John 16:8

Pope Francis has stated that we must stop “masquerading before God” in relation to our sin. We must take seriously the reality and nature of sin and the impact that sin has in our lives. It is not an exaggeration to say that our attitude towards sin has eternal consequence. Sin wounds and at times destroys our relationship with Christ. The Spirit of God convicts us of our sin not to condemn us but to convert us. In this segment we will see how the Spirit draws us closer to Christ by revealing to us our sin.

DISCUSSION

1. In the spiritual life, becoming more aware of our sin doesn’t separate us from God, but rather it has the capacity to draw us closer to him. Also, in what seems to be a paradox, when we get closer to Christ we become more aware of our sin. The more light we have in our lives the more we are able to see into the darkness.

2. Sin does not keep us out of heaven: in fact, heaven is full of men and women who have sinned. An inability to recognize our sin and repent is what keeps us away from God. Discuss times when you have had an awareness of your sinfulness and more importantly an experience of God’s mercy and forgiveness.

3. We live in a culture that is quickly losing any understanding of objective truth and everything is now relative. Discuss the impact this has had on you, your family, and parish.

REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.

Take ten minutes and pray that your mind and heart would be illuminated by the light of the Holy Spirit.

Ask for the Holy Spirit to show you one area of sin in your life that God wants to bring his mercy.

HE WILL
CONVICT
THE WORLD
JOHN 16:8

Pray for and experience help in overcoming that sin. Within the next week make a good confession and encounter Jesus there.



“WHEN GOD FORGIVES A SINNER WHO HUMBLY CONFESSES HIS SIN, THE DEVIL LOSES HIS DOMINION OVER THE HEART HE HAD TAKEN.”

- SAINT BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX -

KEY TEXTS

JOHN 16:7-8 *“But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation: sin, because they do not believe in me.”*

JOHN 8:44 *“...[the devil] is a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks in character, because he is a liar and the father of lies.”*

THE SPIRIT'S FREEDOM

SEGMENT 12

SYNOPSIS

“When the Son sets you free you are free indeed”- John 8:36

The Holy Spirit brings freedom from fear, anger, and the past. So often Christians find themselves bound by so many things and are not aware that the Holy Spirit wants to bring the freedom of God to them. Many are slaves to anger, envy, jealousy, comparisons, and addictions. You do not have to live life like that. In this segment we will discuss how the Holy Spirit can bring you greater freedom.



“...**FREEDOM** IS THE ABILITY TO LIVE RESPONSIBLY THE TRUTH OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND WITH ONE ANOTHER.”

- POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II -

DISCUSSION

1. Freedom is such a rich, powerful word. What stirs in your heart when you hear that God wants you to be free?
2. What does living in freedom look like? For what purpose does God want us to be free?
3. How would your life be different if you were experiencing greater freedom?

YOU ARE
FREE
INDEED
JOHN 8:36

REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.

Take some time for quiet prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you identify what it is that binds you. This may be a difficult exercise but trust that God is bigger than whatever it is that binds you. Is it fear, anger, an inability to forgive?

Ask for the power of the Holy Spirit to bring you freedom. Imagine Jesus breaking the chains that bind you. Be persistent in this prayer and experience God's freedom.

KEY TEXTS

GALATIANS 5:1 “For freedom Christ has set us free, so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.”

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17 “Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom.”

SPIRITUAL FREEDOM “True freedom is a wonderful gift from God, and it has been a cherished part of your country's history. But when freedom is separated from truth, individuals lose their moral direction and the very fabric of society begins to unravel. Freedom is not the ability to do anything we want, whenever we want. Rather, freedom is the ability to live responsibly the truth of our relationship with God and with one another. Remember what Jesus said: “You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” (Jn 8:32).). Let no one mislead you or prevent you from seeing what really matters. Turn to Jesus, listen to him, and discover the true meaning and direction of your lives.” -Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR

THE SPIRIT GIVES WITNESS

SEGMENT 13

SYNOPSIS

“We are witnesses of these things, as is the Holy Spirit that God has given to those who obey him”- Acts 5:32

The Holy Spirit gives witness to Jesus. We are not able to fully understand who Jesus is on our own strength, intellect, and power. The Holy Spirit aids us in moving from our limited intellectual perception of who Christ is and what he has done for us to a life-changing understanding of Christ. It is also the Holy Spirit that inspires us to give witness to Christ by our words and actions. This segment will look at how we are best able to cooperate with the Holy Spirit so that we may see Jesus as he is and give witness to him.

DISCUSSION

1. Reflect on occasions where you understood more profoundly and personally who Jesus is. Discuss how you were able to see the Holy Spirit working.
2. What are your concerns or anxieties about sharing your faith?
3. Discuss the kerygma and share your experience of each element: God's love, that we are sinners, that Jesus came to rescue us, and the personal choice to follow him.

HE WILL
TESTIFY
JOHN 15:26

REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit desires to reveal Jesus to us. Take some time in prayer and ask the Spirit to enlighten your mind and heart to Jesus' presence. What does Christ speak to you? What image of Jesus comes to mind?

Also ask the Holy Spirit to provide you with an opportunity to talk about the Lord to someone within the next five days. Pray for a sensitivity to this and be open to the Holy Spirit providing this opportunity.



"EVANGELIZATION IS NEVER POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT... IT MUST BE SAID THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE EVANGELIZER."

- POPE PAUL VI -
- EVANGELII NUNTIANDI #75 -

KEY TEXTS

JOHN 15:26 *“When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me.”*

ACTS 5:27-32 *“When they had brought them in and made them stand before the Sanhedrin, the high priest questioned them, ‘We gave you strict orders [did we not?] to stop teaching in that name. Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and want to bring this man's blood upon us.’ But Peter and the apostles said in reply, ‘We must obey God rather than men. The God of our ancestors raised Jesus, though you had him killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as leader and savior to grant Israel repentance and forgiveness of sins. We are witnesses of these things, as is the Holy Spirit that God has given to those who obey him.’”*



SYNOPSIS

"For the one whom God sent speaks the words of God. He does not ration his gift of the Spirit" - John 3:34

It's important for us to remember the great things that God has done for us. Often we become consumed with our daily struggles and forget all that that Lord has done. We may also only focus on God not doing what we want of him. One of the blessings of the Holy Spirit is that the Spirit reminds us what Jesus said and what he has done for us. There is no limit to what God has done or what he desires to do in our lives.

DISCUSSION

1. What is it that causes you to forget what God has done for you? How can you better remember these gifts? Be practical.
2. We only have so many hours in the day, so we must ration our time. In the busyness of your day how do you make time for God? How do you use the time that you make for God?
3. How do you share with others what God has done for you?

AND
REMINDE
YOU
JOHN 14:26

REFLECTION

Come Holy Spirit.

Take a few minutes and ask God to remind you how he has been faithful and has continually taken care of you.

Ask him to expand your capacity to receive him and allow the Lord to shower his love on you.

In the next few weeks take an opportunity to share what God has done with someone else by performing some work of mercy.



"WE MUST PRAY EVERY DAY: 'HOLY SPIRIT, MAKE MY HEART OPEN TO THE WORD OF GOD, MAKE MY HEART OPEN TO GOODNESS, MAKE MY HEART OPEN TO THE BEAUTY OF GOD EVERY DAY.'"

- POPE FRANCIS -

KEY TEXTS

JOHN 3:34 *"For the one whom God sent speaks the words of God. He does not ration his gift of the Spirit."*

JOHN 16:12-14 *"I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you."*

JOHN 14:26 *"The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you."*