

Dig Deeper

Welcome to Encounter 2010! We are excited that at the start of the year you have chosen to study the scriptures. We want you to get the maximum benefit out of your investment. Therefore, we want to encourage you at the beginning to **share what you learn with somebody else**. You do not have to be an expert. You do not have to have all the answers, but if you really want to grow this year, it starts with that one simple decision: share what you learn with somebody else. This is the year for you to “dig deeper.”

Each week, we will prepare this GPS (Grow, Pray, Serve) guide to help you “dig deeper.” It is designed for you to use with a small group (5 or 6 people) and takes no more than an hour to share.

Lesson Summary: Spirits’ Filling

The issue we always have to deal with is not how much of the Holy Spirit we have, because we have all of Him. The issue is how much He has of us.

1. THE _____ **TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**
(Ephesians 5:14-18, John 15:5, Romans 7:18, 1 John 4:4)

FOUR OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE SPIRIT’S FILLING

- a. IT IS GOD’S _____
- b. IT IS FOR EVERY _____
- c. IT IS AN _____ OF GOD
- d. IT IS A _____ GIFT

2. THE _____ **OF BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT**
(Ephesians 5:18, Luke 4:28-30, Acts 13:45)

- A. IT IS A MATTER OF _____
- B. IT IS A MATTER OF BEING CONTROLLED _____
(Acts 2:13-21)
- C. IT IS A MATTER OF BEING FILLED WITH _____

3. THE _____ **OF BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**
(Ephesians 5:18-21)

- A. THE _____ OF THE FILLING

B. THE _____ OF THE FILLING
(Romans 12:1)

C. THE _____ OF THE FILLING

4. FOUR WAYS TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____

5. TWO SUGGESTIONS TO HELP YOU: GET _____ AND HANG AROUND _____
(John 7:37-39)

Group Prayer: Gracious God, we give you praise for indwelling us and filling us with your Spirit. Fill us again that we might live victoriously and joyfully every day. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Icebreaker: Describe a moment where you felt full of the presence of God?

Group Discussion: When you really get a handle on the reality of the Spirit-filled life, you will wonder how you were able to make it at all without the Spirit's fullness. This is not a blessing you have to beg the Spirit for—the Holy Spirit is waiting to fill you. I hope these ideas will help you open your heart to Him as individual and as a group:

1. Dr. Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade helps us appropriate the Spirit's fullness with his concept called "*spiritual breathing*." First, you exhale the bad air—that's confession of sin. Second, you inhale, claiming the Spirit's fullness as yours. Like physical breathing, you can do it as often as necessary. *Do this now as a group.*
2. One thing about the early Christians—they did things that couldn't be accounted for on merely human terms. Take a long look at your life and ask if that's true of you: share with your group where you see God working in an extraordinary way in your life.
3. What is your favorite hymn? Sing a little for the group. Don't worry about how you sound, just make a joyful noise.

Challenge: For the next 24 hours, try to keep a record of what you fill your mind and heart with. Include your listening, viewing, reading, daydreaming, conversations—anything that affects your mind. Your list should tell you what you're giving the Spirit to work with and where you may need to adjust.

Group Takeway: The Holy Spirit longs to fill us daily. For the next 7 days, incorporate the 4 steps to being "filled" with the Holy Spirit into your life.