

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' Illumination

When I talk about the illuminating ministry of the Holy Spirit, I am referring to that process of spiritual enlightenment whereby the Spirit enables you to grasp, experience, and apply God's truth in your daily Christian life.

1. **SPIRITUAL** _____
(1 Corinthians 2)

a. The Holy Spirit Searches the _____ of God.

b. The Holy Spirit is our _____.
(Isaiah 55:8, 1 Corinthians 2:12-14, Romans 11:33)

c. The Holy Spirit is our _____.
(1 John 2:20 and 27, 2 Kings 6:14-16, 1 John 2:27, Proverbs 20:27, Ephesians 4:11, 1 John 2:21-26, 1 John 5:7)

2. **THE POWER OF** _____
(John 14:26)

a. The _____ of Scripture
(Matthew 13:14-15, Isaiah 6:9-10, Acts 15:14-18, Amos 9:11-12, John 16:14-15, Matthew 10)

3. **SPIRITUAL** _____
(2 Timothy 1:7)

a. Know where we're _____.
(Acts 20:17-38, Acts 7:55-56)

b. Know How Things Will _____.
(Acts 7:59-60, Luke 24:13-35)

4. **SPIRITUAL** _____

- a. _____ of Spiritual Direction
(Acts 8, Acts 10, Acts 13:2, Acts 16:6-10)
- b. _____ About Spiritual Direction
(Romans 8:14)
1. The _____
 2. _____
(Romans 8:28)
 3. Common _____
(Acts 15)
 4. _____
(2 Corinthians 12:7)
 5. _____
(Acts 2:36-41, 1 Thessalonians 1:5-6; 2:9-13, James 1)

Group Discussion Guide

Group Prayer: *Gracious God, you are awesome and we give you praise for the illumining work of your Spirit in our lives and in our hearts. Show us now exactly what you want us to see so that we might live to your glory. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.*

Icebreaker: *Have you ever known anybody who was afraid of the dark? Do you know why?*

Group Discussion: Since God's thoughts and ways are so much higher than ours, how thankful we should be for the illumination of the Spirit. Without it, we would be in the dark, maybe for eternity! I hope these ideas will help turn on the Spirit's light for you:

1. You've probably heard this before, but you'd be amazed how much of God's will, even His specific desires, is revealed for us in the scriptures. Get out your Bible concordance and look up the word *will*. Then be prepared to obey what you find.
2. What situation or person do you feel the least confident in handling today? That may be exactly where you'll find the spiritual confidence we talked about. Try looking beyond just what you can see—the people, the events, the hurts, whatever. Ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten your spiritual eyes so you can see beyond the obvious to His purposes in your trial.

3. I used a satellite dish to illustrate our ability to receive and translate the things of God. You have the same capacity as every other believer to tune in, because you have the same Holy Spirit. Are you allowing outside interference, competing signals, to jam your spiritual receiver? Better do a "program check" to make sure God has your undivided attention.
4. When it comes to seeking direction, we usually just pray, "Lord, lead me today." That's not really what God wants to hear. Try praying this way and see what happens, "Lord, I am yours today. Bring those influences and people into my life that you can use to keep me close to you and walking in your truth."

Challenge: Ask God to show you something about you that you really don't want to see.

Group Takeaway: Ask God to show you your next step as a group. How you can serve more effectively? How you can care for one another more deeply? How you can worship more fervently? Pray about it together.