

Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit

Introduction and Chapter 1 – I’ve Got Jesus. Why Do I Need the Spirit?

Scripture: John 14:15-17; John 16:5-16

Prayer.

[Note to Leaders: Do not feel obligated to cover all of these questions. If you are having a good discussion, it is usually better to skip questions and leave time for personal sharing and prayer, rather than rush through an agenda.]

Pick one of these two questions for openers:

1. Why is this book called *Forgotten God*? Is this your experience regarding the Holy Spirit? Is this the experience of the Church in general?
2. Have I become a “self-focused consumers rather than a self-sacrificing servant attuned to the Holy Spirit” (p. 16-17)? If so, what are some indications?

Discovery questions:

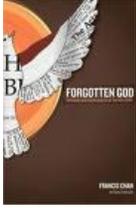
3. What are some baggage and stereotypes you associate with the Holy Spirit?
4. Chan writes that one of his hopes is that he does not want to live the remainder of his life where he is right now, stagnating at this point. What are some of your own hopes for this study?
5. John chapters 14 – 16 are key for understanding the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. What are some ways Jesus comforted his disciples regarding his departure from John 14? (p. 34) *[You may want to read some additional passages on this. Perhaps pick a few in advance: Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2:1-13; Acts 4:31; Rom 8:1-17; Rom 8:26-27; Rom 15:13; 1 Cor 2:12-14; 1 Cor 3:16; 1 Cor 6:9-11; 1 Cor 12:7-11; 2 Cor 3:17-18; Gal 4:4-7; Gal 5:16-25; Eph 3:14-16; 1 John 4:13]*
6. Find Scripture to describe what you would expect to see from a Spirit-filled person.

Closer question:

7. What is one point that stood out to you in Chapter 1.

8. What is one practical application from Chapter 1; what do you want to see changed/what have you learned tonight.

Prayer: For God to open our hearts and minds to His teaching about the Holy Spirit.



Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit

Chapter 2 and 4 –What Are You Afraid Of, and Why Do You Want Him?

Scriptures to consider: Luke 18:18-30, 10:17-24; Acts 8:9-24; Rom 5:5

[Tip for Leaders: You may want to have an 'ice-breaker' each week to expedite getting to know one another. For example, "We don't all need to share this one, but is anyone willing to share a 'most embarrassing moment,'" which relates to question #1 below.]

Prayer

Opening questions:

1. What is an area of life where you have been too concerned with what others thought of you?
2. Why do you think it is that we care so much about what other people think of us (p.46)?
3. If at times we fear the Holy Spirit, what are some possible wrong motivations for experiencing the Holy Spirit (p. 84-87)? To what extent is your desire for the Holy Spirit explicitly for the encouragement and good of the church?

Discovery questions:

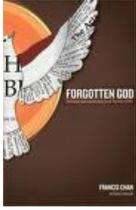
4. What are some potential problems with basing our views of the Holy Spirit on traditions (p. 53)?
5. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:19 together. What does it mean to quench the Holy Spirit? How might we be quenching the spirit? What are examples of the two ways mentioned that we may be quenching the Holy Spirit?

6. Chan writes that “we need too look for his action in the midst of our daily lives (p. 89).” What are some more ‘ordinary’ ways the Holy Spirit supernaturally shows up?

Closer questions:

7. Read 2 Corinthians 3:18. How open are we to transformation by the Holy Spirit (p. 92-96)?
8. How would Cornerstone Church be different if you were not a part of it?
9. Take time this week to consider what fears you may have about the Holy Spirit.
10. List any other practical applications from Chapter 2 or 4.

Prayer: For strength to overcome the fear and to follow where the spirit might lead.



Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit

Chapter 3 – Theology of the Holy Spirit 101

Scripture to consider: Eph 3:16; Acts 5:3-4

Opening questions:

1. What is theology and why is it important (p. 64)?
2. In theological study, how can analogies be helpful? Harmful (p. 66)?

Discovery questions:

3. How do we know that the Holy Spirit is a Person, and why does it matter?
4. List and discuss the other six practical truths Chan points out concerning the Holy Spirit (Which are related to his personhood, p. 70-74). Which one is most surprising to you?

Closing questions/for future thought:

5. Mention one fruit of the Spirit that you see displayed in another member of your group. Mention one fruit of the Spirit that you yourself are seeking to grow, by the power of the Holy Spirit.
6. Take one or two passages listed on pages 74-76 and really meditate, pray and contemplate over the passage. How might this impact your life?

7. For thought: Have you yourself believed, repented, been baptized, and received the Holy Spirit?

Prayer: To always be mindful of who the Holy Spirit is and what He does. To be in awe of the Holy Spirit and for God to fill us with His Spirit.