

STUDY NOTES

THROUGH THE DESERT

a Series At New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message "The Holy Helper" on 8/18/19 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 14:15-21

ASKING FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

It is our natural inclination that we need to DO things in order to get out of the desert. However, finding our way out of the desert, requires us to have faith that God will nourish us rather than ourselves. We have to ask for the Holy Spirit to work in us. The Holy Spirit isn't just God "with us." The Holy Spirit is God "in us."

The Holy Spirit is a personal spirit that works with us and in us.

- *What role do you feel like the Holy Spirit plays in your life? How often do you acknowledge Him in what you do?*

THE HOLY SPIRIT IMPARTS WISDOM

Read 1 Corinthians 2:6-16. The apostle Paul promises that God reveals "hidden wisdom" to us. He says that we can have the "mind of Christ." How is this possible? Paul says that God reveals this wisdom by the Spirit of God in us. As we become more mature in Christ, we will rely more on the Holy Spirit to lead us.

The Spirit that lives within gives us the mind of Christ.

- *What could you imagine living with the "mind of Christ" looks like?*

THE MYSTERY OF HOW THIS HAPPENS

The mind of Christ is only available to those who submit to the will of God by confessing Jesus as Lord. The life of the believer is transformed over time by letting the Spirit work. The Holy Spirit can only transform us when we submit our lives to his teaching. We must let ourselves be transformed.

- *Why does it tell you that the commands in scripture are to **let** ourselves be transformed by the Holy Spirit?*

LETTING GO

God doesn't just take over us. We must let Him take over us. When we do so, we can discern the will of God in our lives. That means we must let go. We trust that God is leading us.

To be truly free, you have to surrender your will to God's will.

- *In your own words, what does it mean to let go of control and allow the Holy Spirit to lead?*

God doesn't ask for our surrender so that we can be robots. He asks for our surrender so that we can be free. He wants us to become everything that we are intended to be. In the words of C.S. Lewis, "God invented you." That means that we should allow Him into our lives with the instruction manual.

- *Why is it helpful to know that God wants you to become everything that you were intended to be?*
- *How does the Holy Spirit lead us to be who God intended us to be?*
- *Pray with each other to submit to the Holy Spirit this week.*

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FOR REFERENCE

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

C.S. Lewis (Mere Christianity): "The more we let God take us over, the more truly ourselves we become - because He made us. He invented us. He invented all the different people that you and I were intended to be. . . It is when I turn to Christ, when I give up myself to His personality, that I first begin to have a real personality of my own."