**Receive the Power of the Holy Spirit!**

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***Kentucky Council of Churches
Campus Ministry Modules*Receive the Power of the Holy Spirit!**

**Module Flow**

1) Introduction

2) Guiding Question

3) Guiding Bible Passages

4) Bible Passages

5) Bible Study: Reflection and Activities

 1. The Gift of the Holy Spirit: Embrace the Wisdom of God.

 2. The Gift of the Holy Spirit: Loving One Another.

6) Mission and Outreach with Community and Global Partners

7) Resources: KCC, WCC, TED, The Moth, Films, etc.

**Introduction**

Ecumenism and the Christian life are bound together by the work of the Holy Spirit.

This module seeks to spark your awareness of the Holy Spirit in your life. Many Christians fail to ask this question and consequently are unaware of the work of the Spirit in their lives. It is this spirit that creates fellowship with God and others in the unity of God’s love.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the God, who sets us free. By God’s power we become children of God. Christian freedom is freedom to understand who we really are and whose we really are! It is freedom from viewing ourselves according to our human limitations and instead to see ourselves as God sees us. It is this freedom that inspires us to act for God so that we are not driven by selfish motives and hopes.

When we discover the Holy Spirit we see things according to the truth about ourselves. We do not see, but we are seen. We do not know, but we are known. There are no claims on us except those that bind us to God. God is in the beginning, in the end, and the middle of our lives. Through the Spirit we are created and recreated in his image.

**Guiding Question**

How can we, as Christians, embrace the power of the Holy Spirit to become children of God?

**Guiding Bible Passage**

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (NRSV)

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

**Biblical Passages**

Acts 2 and 1 Cor.12:3, 12-31.

John 3:5-6

1 Cor. 12:4-7

Ps. 139:7-10

1 John 4:16b-21.

**Getting Started/Worship Center**

The Bible Passages can be reflected on consecutively in one group or the group could be divided up into smaller groups. The small group could discuss one of the Bible Passages and report their discussion to the larger group when the group reconvenes.

You will need: Bibles, a candle. One piece of cardboard for every discussion group, glue and staples, string, adhesive tape, sticky tack etc. White paper, colored markers, crayons, pencils, and/or pens.

Place a white cloth on your Worship Center. Place a candle in a candleholder in the center of the table.

**Bible Studies**

**Opening Prayer**

Pray the Lord’s Prayer.

**1. The Gift of the Holy Spirit: Embrace the Wisdom of God!**

Christianity has always had something unique and powerful to say about wisdom. It has little to do with the way we normally think about wisdom and smarts, and it shatters our culture's shallow ideas about spirituality. In our letter today Paul goes to great lengths to debunk the dream of attaining great wisdom. The Greek Corinthians thought that in being wise they could climb closer to God. Paul claims that in the light of God's saving work through Christ, what once seemed wise is now foolish and what appears as folly is actually the wisdom of God.

It looks like Paul is advocating being dumb, but this is not at all what is being said. Paul's rejection of human wisdom in favor of proclaiming God's wisdom does not constitute a sort of dumbing-down of the spiritual life. On the contrary, Paul testifies that it is his insight into the power of the gospel that drives him forward, that urges him to new depth of commitment and encourages him to take higher, more genuine risks.

Think how hard it must have been for Paul, one of the great minds and leaders of his time to admit that he was weak and scared. Yet he admits is freely. And then in the wake of this confession, he exhorts us to abandon human preconceptions about wisdom. Embrace the wisdom of God, he says. You will find it in the foolishness of Christ crucified.

Reflection.

Ask: Do we have the right attitude about being wise. We live in a culture that is very ambivalent about being wise. Our parents spend fortunes trying to ensure that their children are prepared for college and that they have a head-start on the academic achievement ladder. Everyone knows that knowledge means power and success. But at the very same time, we don't really like being portrayed as knowing too much.

We even have a way of denigrating intelligence that is very subtle but effective. Remember High School. To be called a wise guy was not a compliment. Worse was the ever attractive "smart mouth" or "smart aleck.

How do we know what is wise?

Write your answers on the cardboard and discuss together.

**Closing Prayer**

Gather around the worship center in prayer.

Each person will place a lighted candle in the middle of the table and offer prayers asking for the help of the Holy Spirit to free us for love and fellowship.

**2. The Gift of the Holy Spirit: Loving One Another.**

**Opening Prayer**

Pray the Lord’s Prayer.

**Bible Study**

Read 1 John 4:16b-21.

Divide into groups to address three questions. Have each group record their discussion with the intent to present it to the group after a twenty minute discussion.

Group 1: Who are our brothers and sisters? Are we to love those who do not believe what we do? Are we to love those who intend to harm us? Etc.

Group 2: What does it mean to love our brothers and sisters? Just how far are we to go to show our love and stand by them? What if they are violently opposed to our values and faith? Etc.

Group 3: Why to we fear neighbors who threaten us or are different from us?

After twenty minutes, have each group report to the larger group and discuss the reports together.

Attempt to formulate a common statement on the command to love our neighbors. Post the statement in a public area agreed upon by the group.

According to Scripture idolatry suppresses our openness to the Holy Spirit. Reflect on ways in which the idols of our day affect us. Are there ways to act and counteract their power in our lives?

**Closing Prayer**

Close around the worship center in prayer.

Each person will place a lighted candle in the middle of the table and offer prayers asking for the help of the Holy Spirit to free us for love and fellowship.

**Outreach with Community and Global Partners**

Visit a Pentecostal congregation and attend one of their worship events. Ask a pastor or theologian from this tradition to talk with your group.

**Online Resources**

Bible Study on Acts 2:1-13 by Huynju Bae entitled *Being and Becoming the Church*.

[https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources](https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/assembly/2013-busan/bible-studies/being-and-becoming-church-the-spirit-filled-genesis)

[/documents/assembly/2013-busan/bible-studies/being-and-becoming-church-the-spirit-filled-genesis](https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/assembly/2013-busan/bible-studies/being-and-becoming-church-the-spirit-filled-genesis)

Pentecostal World Conference, address by Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit

https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/general-secretary/speeches/pentecostal-world-congress-address-by-rev-dr-olav-fykse-tveit