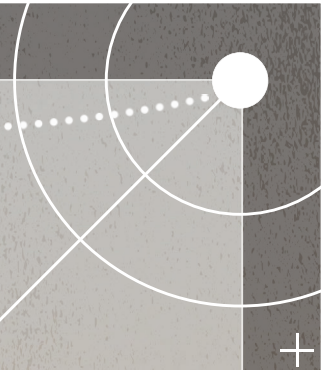




Christ
Fellowship
CHURCH



THE EXTREME LIFE

LIVING BEYOND NORMAL

Pastors Todd and Julie Mullins

Group Discussion Guide

Session 1

The Holy Spirit is Power

God never intended for you to live an ordinary, barely surviving kind of life.

God created you to live an *extreme* life!

In this study, we will see how the Holy Spirit enables us to live an extreme life, a life where the “mighty power” of God is at work within us, accomplishing more than we could ever imagine. (see Ephesians 3:20).

In this session, we will discover how God can make even lifeless “dry bones” come to life, by the power available to us through the Holy Spirit.

Connect

Take a few minutes to go around the group and introduce yourself.

- Try this “Lukewarm” exercise to get the conversation started. Serve your group members a hot or cold beverage at room temperature and ask everyone to take at least one sip. As they drink, invite them to imagine a world without the ability to heat and cool our foods.
- Ask group members to share one convenience they would miss the most if electrical power weren’t available.
- Just as power impacts the moment-by-moment quality of our 21st Century life, so does the power available to us through the Holy Spirit’s impact on our spiritual lives today.

Watch (23 minutes)

Prophecy = to _____ the Word of the Lord.



There are two powerful truths of revelation:

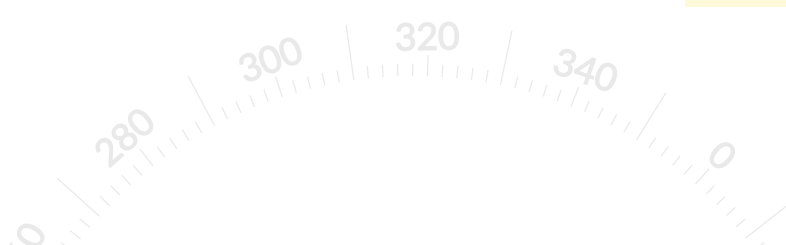
1. The Power of _____

2. The Power of the _____

Power=Dunamis=Dynamite

Words kill, words give life; they’re either poison or fruit – you choose.” — Proverbs 18:21

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” — Acts 1:8



Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think

— Ephesians 3:20

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

— Ephesians 1:18-20

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.'"

Therefore prophecy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.'

— Ezekiel 37:1-14

For nothing will be impossible with God

— Luke 1:37

Discuss

1. Pastor Todd shared that many Christians have a hard time relating to the Holy Spirit. Is this the case for you? What from your upbringing or previous experience could have contributed to this misperception?
2. If you had to describe your spiritual life, are you living the “extreme life?” Why or why not?
3. Based on the extreme prophecy/vision we read about in Ezekiel 37, can you identify any “dry bones” currently in your life in need of resuscitation? In other words, what seems almost “dead” in your life today?
4. Pastor Todd shared that to bring those “dry bones” back to life, we need to recognize the power of prophecy. What is prophecy, and how can the words we speak change our situation?
5. In what area of your life do you need to exchange your own power for “*dunamis*,” or dynamite? In practical terms, how can this power from the Holy Spirit make a difference?
6. Pastor Todd’s second point is to recognize the Power of the Spirit. As Scripture reminds us, the Holy Spirit is always at the start of something new – creation (Gen. 1), the birth of Jesus (Luke 1), the birth of the church (Acts 2), etc. Since the Holy Spirit is always there at the beginning, how can we keep Him there and influential throughout?

“You can’t live the extreme life without the Holy Spirit!”

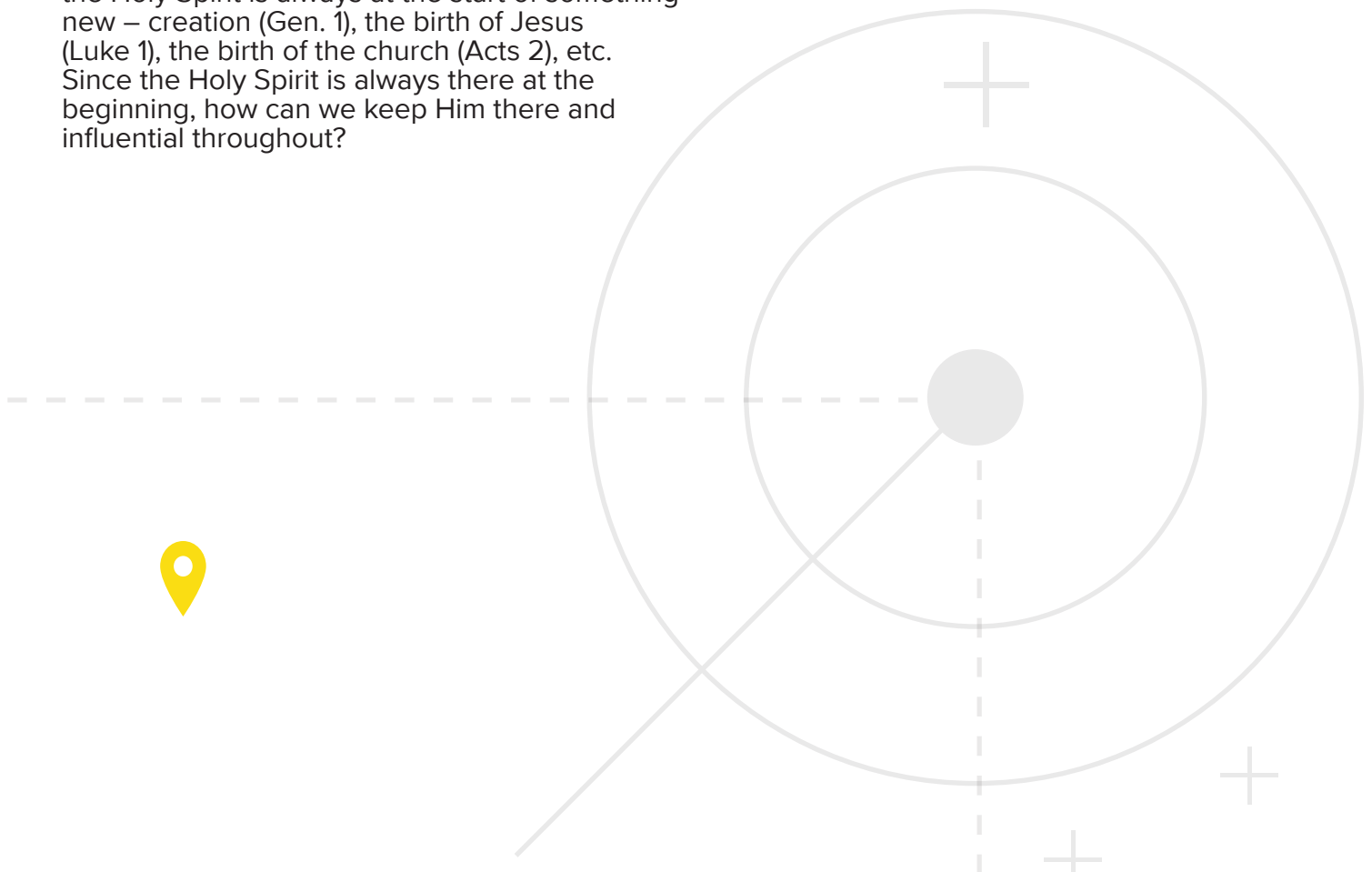
- Pastor Todd Mullins

“Words kill, words give life; they’re either poison or fruit – you choose.”

— Proverbs 18:21

“Can these ‘dry bones’ live again? Yes, but it will force you to make a choice: will you go by what I feel, or what others say, or what God says?”

- Pastor Todd Mullins



Apply

Pastor Todd challenged us to realize this power that comes from the Holy Spirit is for you and me! As we begin this study on The Extreme Life, will you be willing to go on this adventure to discover all that God has for you?

What is your next step tomorrow based on this study?

Your First 15

Start each day by spending 15 minutes with God.

- Spend 5 minutes in prayer.
- Spend 5 minutes in worship.
- Spend 5 minutes reading and reflecting on God's Word.

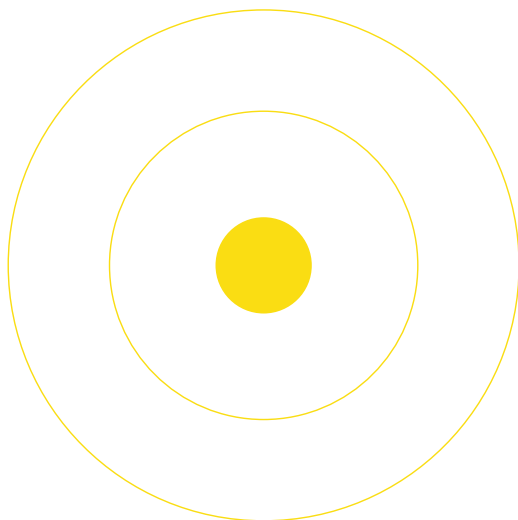
Here are some passages for a deeper study this week:

- Ezekiel 37: 1-14
- Ephesians 3:20
- Ephesians 5:18

Pray

Take a few minutes to share any prayer requests with your group and pray.

In preparation for next week, watch **Video #2** of "The Extreme Life."



Session 2

The Holy Spirit is God Part 1

The Extreme Life!

After last week's study, hopefully you've discovered God wants us all to have an *extreme* life, which describes a life overflowing with God's power.

In this session, we will see that since the extreme life is meant to be exceptional and an adventure for each of us, God has equipped us with everything we need! All we need to do is receive it and learn how to use the "items" God has given us to unleash His power.

Connect

Take a few minutes to go around the group, and introduce yourself as needed.

- Based on last week's study, have you identified any "dry bones" in your life, and have they begun to show some life? Share a recent experience.
- Have you ever been camping before? If so, what was the best thing that happened camping, or the worst thing?

Watch (16 minutes)

Two Foundational Truths about the Holy Spirit:

1. He is _____
2. He is _____

God _____ us is better than God _____ us.

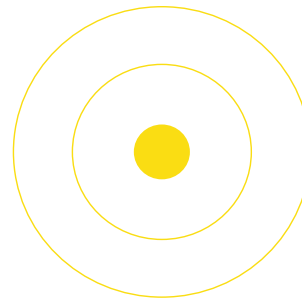
Life is an adventure and you have everything you need in the Holy Spirit.

- Backpack Object #1: _____
- He wants to light you up!
- Backpack Object #2: _____
- He helps you know which way to go!

Someone living on an entirely human level rejects the revelations of God's Spirit, for they make no sense to Him. He can't understand the revelations of the Spirit because they are only discovered by the illumination of the Spirit.

—1 Corinthians 2:14

Jesus said, "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth . . . and He will tell you what is yet to come." —John 16:13



"And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven."

—Luke 24:49

"... I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ... Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."

—Joel 2:28-29

But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.

—John 16:7-3

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think

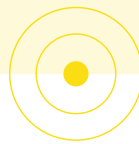
—Ephesians 3:20

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe in him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

—Ephesians 1:18-20

"It is the Spirit alone who gives life ..."

—John 6:63



Discuss

1. As you reflect on the past week, have you experienced an *extreme* life? Share why or why not?
2. Pastor Todd begins this study with two foundational truths. Do you have questions about either of these? For instance, since the Holy Spirit is God, and Jesus is God, what does the term Trinity mean?
3. "God in us is better than God with us." What did Pastor Todd mean when he shared this is terrific news for us? Recently, how have you realized this great news in your own life?
4. How critical is a flashlight or lantern when you are camping? Can you share a time when you've experienced the Holy Spirit's power as a "light" either when you were reading the Scriptures, or a time He pointed something out about your life?

Extreme: 'reaching the highest degree; very great; not usual; exceptional!'

- Pastor Todd Mullins

"The only way we can experience an extreme life is through an extreme relationship with the Holy Spirit."

- Pastor Todd Mullins

5. When was the last time you were physically “lost?” What was it like, and what were the feelings you had? How did you get “found” or find where you needed to go?

“His word (the Holy Spirit) will never contradict The Word (the Bible).”

- Pastor Todd Mullins

6. A map helps us know which road to take, or how to get from this place to that place. How is the Holy Spirit like a map for you (or in today’s terminology a GPS)? Is there a recent experience you can share that illustrates this?

Apply

Pastor Todd challenged us to realize that an extreme life begins with an extreme relationship with the Holy Spirit, and that He has equipped you with everything you need! As we wrap up, look at the two action steps below. Circle the action step that best applies to you this week – the Holy Spirit as my “flashlight” or as my “map”:

- I need to hear from God and have him teach/guide me in certain things this week.
- I need to know which road to take this week and how to get there concerning a specific issue.

Your First 15

Start each day by spending 15 minutes with God.

- Spend 5 minutes in prayer.
- Spend 5 minutes in worship.
- Spend 5 minutes reading and reflecting on God’s Word.

Here are some passages for a deeper study this week:

- John 16:5-15
- Matthew 10:19-20
- Psalms 139:7-10

Pray

Take a few minutes to share any prayer requests with your group and pray.

In preparation for next week, watch **Video #3** in the “The Extreme Life” series.



Session 3

The Holy Spirit is God Part 2

Do you have everything you need?

Everyone who embarks on an adventure must answer that question. And as we discovered last week, to live the *extreme* life, we are given “items” by God, through a relationship with the Holy Spirit, that empower us to live an *extreme* life!

This week we will continue to see how God has equipped us to unleash His power in our lives.

Connect

If you have new members, take a few minutes to go around the group and introduce yourself.

- Regarding last week’s lesson, were your “flashlight” and “map” helpful to you this past week? Explain how.
- If you’ve been camping before, what are some items you take other than a flashlight and a map?

Watch (17 minutes)



Life is an adventure, and you have everything you need in the Holy Spirit.

- Backpack Object #3: _____
- He helps you know where you are!
- Backpack Object #4: _____
- He is the Living Water!
- Backpack Object #5: _____
- He guards our mouth!

Someone living on an entirely human level rejects the revelations of God’s Spirit, for they make no sense to Him. He can’t understand the revelations of the Spirit because they are only discovered by the illumination of the Spirit.
— 1 Corinthians 2:14

What do we do with all of this today?

- Don’t leave _____
without Him (put on the backpack).
- Be looking for the _____
(He will light up your pathway).
- Listen for the _____
(turn off the noise around you).

Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’” When he said “living water,” He was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given. . . “
— John 7:37-39

Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips to keep me from speaking thoughtlessly.
— Psalm 141:3

Don't be drunk with wine because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.
—Ephesians 5:18

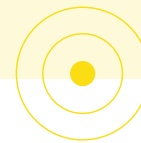
"I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper to be with you forever."
— John 14:16

"It is the Spirit alone who gives life . . . "
— John 6:63

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think
—Ephesians 3:20

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

—Ephesians 1:18-20



Discuss

1. A compass is critical if someone is on an adventure in a new place because it consistently shows you where you are. Have you experienced the Holy Spirit doing this in your life? What "tools" will He often use to reveal this to you?
2. Pastor Todd stressed the direction of the Holy Spirit will always "point" us towards holiness. How did Pastor Todd define holy? How do you evaluate holiness in your life?
3. As water is crucial for humans, the Scriptures teach that the living water, the Holy Spirit, is crucial to our spiritual lives. As Pastor Todd shared, how does the living water quench what we thirst for?
4. Reread the quote from Pastor Todd to the right about living water. As a Christian, how can you carry life to others this week?
5. Were you surprised to see the last object Pastor Todd pulled out of the backpack – duct tape? What does it represent? Why is it good for us and others when we let the Holy Spirit work as "duct tape" in our lives?
6. Pastor Todd closed this session by defining the term "*parakletos*," typically translated as the "Helper" or "Comforter." Based on this Greek word, what did he say about the significance of each of these terms? How do they both summarize everything we've talked about in this study?

"Conviction by the Holy Spirit is a good thing. He will never condemn you. His conviction is the course corrections we need to head in the right direction"

- Pastor Todd Mullins

"Sanctification (to be made holy) is the work of the Holy Spirit, but you have to work with the Holy Spirit to be sanctified."

- Pastor Todd Mullins

"Living water satisfies you... but a river isn't just for the river. A river is to carry life to others!"

- Pastor Todd Mullins

Apply

Pastor Todd concluded this two-part lesson by asking, “What do we do with all of this?” Of the three things he challenged us with, starting tomorrow, which do you need to focus on the most? How will you do this?

- Don’t leave home without Him (put the backpack on!).
- Be looking for the light (seek his truth).
- Listen for the whisper (turn off the noise and distractions around you).

Your First 15

Start each day by spending 15 minutes with God.

- Spend 5 minutes in prayer.
- Spend 5 minutes in worship.
- Spend 5 minutes reading and reflecting on God’s Word.

Here are some passages for a deeper study this week:

- Psalm 141:1-5a
- John 4:9-14
- Isaiah 30:19-23

Pray

Take a few minutes to follow up with requests mentioned in previous weeks and get updated ways to pray for each other.

Watch **Video #4** of “The Extreme Life” series in preparation for next week.



Session 4

The Holy Spirit Makes Us Free

In our previous sessions, we learned that to live the *extreme* life entails having a vibrant relationship with the Holy Spirit, which enables God's power to flow through us.

Yet another aspect of the *extreme* life is that the Holy Spirit has truly set us free!

In this session, Pastor Jimmy Rollins challenges us not to live a filtered life, or one in which we're hiding, but instead to step fully into our freedom by exhibiting four crucial traits.

Connect

Take a few minutes to go around the group, and get the conversation started by asking these questions.

- Based on our last session, did you take your "backpack" with you everywhere you went this week? Share how you used one of the five "items" this past week.
- Remember the game "Hide and Seek"? Did you like playing it as a child? Were you better at hiding or seeking? What's the strangest thing that happened in one of the games you played?

Watch (23 minutes)



How do we get Set Free? How do we get Filled with the Holy Spirit?

• _____ – To Be Seen

• _____ – To be Held

Accountability is knowing what someone is _____ and what they are _____.

• _____ – To be Known

• _____ – To be in His Presence

The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

— John 4:9

But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water?"

— John 4:11

"I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet."

—John 4:17-19

But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

— John 4:23-24

Since this new way gives us such confidence, we can be very bold. We are not like Moses, who put a veil over his face so the people of Israel would not see the glory, even though it was destined to fade away. But the people's minds were hardened, and to this day whenever the old covenant is being read, the same veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. And this veil can be removed only by believing in Christ. Yes, even today when they read Moses' writings, their hearts are covered with that veil, and they do not understand.

But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

— 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.

— John 8:36

"Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose."

— Matthew 5:17

Discuss:

1. In your view, why do so many people, even Christians, hide from God and each other? If you can, give an example from your life.
2. Pastor Jimmy said, "When we aren't filled with the Holy Spirit, we replace Him with things (addictions, busyness, etc)." For many people, why is it easier to replace God with stuff than be open and honest with Him?
3. To get set free by the Holy Spirit and stay filled, Pastor Jimmy said we need to become, or exhibit four traits. Which of these four is the most challenging for you?
4. The famous theologian A.W. Tozer once said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." In this session, Pastor Jimmy said "How I see God determines how I see me". Are both statements true? How have you seen this in your own life, especially Pastor Jimmy's quote?
5. The second trait is Accountability, and the third is Vulnerability. What advice would you give to someone struggling with either of these traits?
6. Intimacy is the goal – being intimate and honest with God and each other. Why is this what we crave, yet it's so elusive?

"The Holy Spirit is saying, 'Come out, come out wherever you are!'"

- Pastor Jimmy Rollins

"How I see God determines how I see me."

- Pastor Jimmy Rollins

"The Bible is the only book you can read where the author is always present."

- Pastor Jimmy Rollins

Apply

Pastor Jimmy closes this session by asking us to stop hiding and living a filtered life, and begin walking in the freedom that comes only by the power of the Holy Spirit. While many of us are Christians, are there areas of our lives where we need to exhibit more transparency, or accountability, or be more vulnerable?

- What is your next step this week to embrace this freedom meant for you?

Your First 15

Start each day by spending 15 minutes with God.

- Spend 5 minutes in prayer.
- Spend 5 minutes in worship.
- Spend 5 minutes reading and reflecting on God's Word.

Here are some passages for a deeper study this week:

- 2 Corinthians 3:16-18
- Galatians 5:13-14
- Romans 6:22



Pray

After sharing prayer requests, open it up for members of the group to pray for each other, the whole group, or just one of the requests mentioned.

Watch **Video #5** in “The Extreme Life” series in preparation for next week



Session 5

The Holy Spirit Gives Gifts Part 1

The Holy Spirit gives gifts!

Everyone loves to receive gifts, and gifts are given for multiple reasons. People give gifts to express love, some give out of obligation, while others give gifts to equip and empower others for a task.

In this session, we will discover the Holy Spirit gives gifts for a variety of reasons, but He gives spiritual gifts specifically to equip and empower us to serve the Church.

Connect

Take a few minutes to catch up with each other and then ask:

- Based on last week's study, how did you embrace your freedom given to you by the Holy Spirit? Share an example.
- Have you ever received a present you never asked for, and it was one of the best things you ever received? Share that experience with the group.

Watch (16 minutes)

Spiritual gifts: Special supernatural abilities given by the Holy Spirit to individual Christ followers, that allows the Holy Spirit to work through their lives to help the church fulfill its mission on the earth.

Charis: grace + ma: gift

Charisma: gift of grace

A Few Gifts to Describe and Define:

- Wisdom is _____
- Knowledge is _____
- Faith is _____
- The gift of Healing and Miracles today means _____

200
220
240
260

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

—Ephesians 2:10

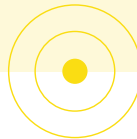
In His grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.

—Romans 12:6

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. . . There are different kinds of gifts [charisma], but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues and, to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

—1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11



Discuss

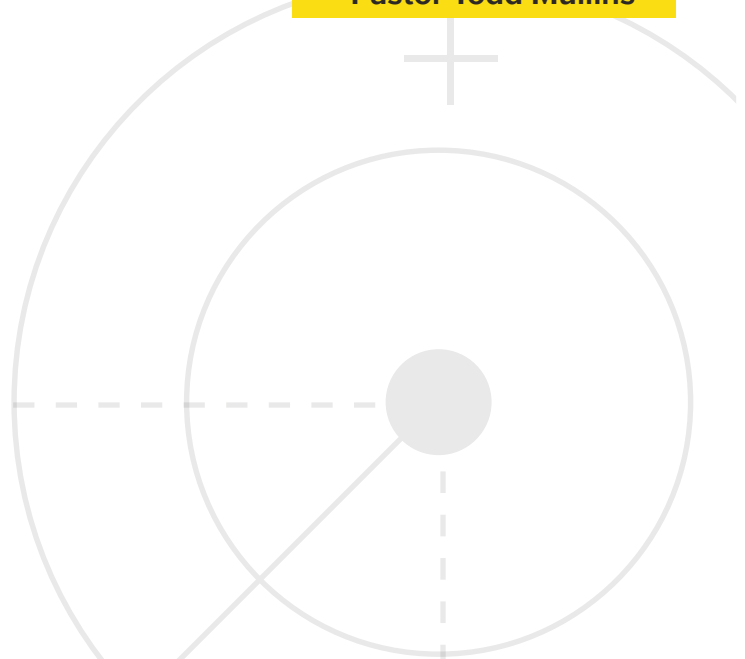
1. Based on the teaching of our pastors, what is a spiritual gift? How many gifts can you name? Where are they found in the Bible?
2. Do you know what some of your spiritual gifts are? How did you identify them? How do you use them at church today? Do you agree with our pastors that Christians discovering their spiritual gifts is critical to the church fulfilling its mission?
3. According to this session, what is the difference between the spiritual gifts of Wisdom and Knowledge? If a person has one of these gifts, how could they serve in the church?
4. How did Pastor Todd describe the difference between faith that all Christians possess, and the spiritual gift of Faith? Have you ever known someone with this spiritual gift? What was unique about them?
5. Have you ever witnessed the spiritual gift of Healing or Miracles? How do you know it was an act of God and not just a coincidence?

“The Holy Spirit has MORE for you than you’re asking for!”

- Pastor Julie Mullins

“We believe in the Giver [the Holy Spirit] who gives gifts to us not according to what we deserve, but according to the grace that God has for us.”

- Pastor Todd Mullins



Apply

As we conclude this part of our study on spiritual gifts, please complete the following this week:

- Take the [Spiritual Gift Assessment](#) (Link included on the group resource page)
- Based on the assessment, evaluate what you think your spiritual gifts are. Do you believe you're using them effectively in the church?

Your First 15

Start each day by spending 15 minutes with God.

- Spend 5 minutes in prayer.
- Spend 5 minutes in worship.
- Spend 5 minutes reading and reflecting on God's Word.

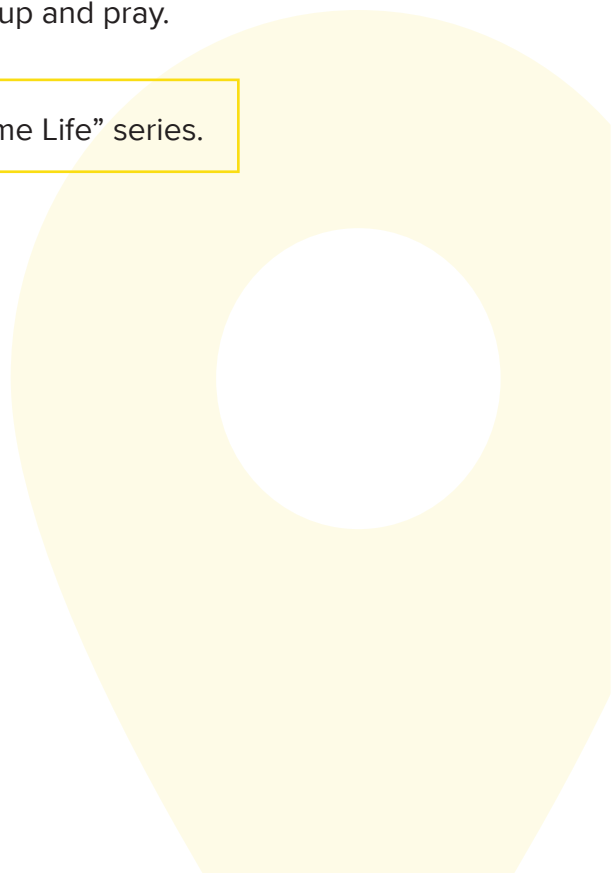
Here are some passages for a deeper study this week:

- Romans 12:6-8
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28
- Ephesians 4:11

Pray

Take a few minutes to share any prayer requests with your group and pray.

In preparation for next week, watch **Video #6** in "The Extreme Life" series.



Session 6

The Holy Spirit Gives Gifts Part 2

We will finish our study on spiritual gifts by discovering why the Holy Spirit gives gifts, look at a few more gifts individually, and identify how we can keep seeking and identifying gifts from the Holy Spirit.

We will also have some final thoughts on our six-week study of The Extreme Life.

Connect

After a brief welcome, begin with these questions:

- Did you take the Spiritual Gift Assessment last week? If so, we'll talk more about the results in our Discussion time, and if not, you can still take it this week.
- What is the strangest or funniest gift you've ever received? In hindsight, did it end up being a useful gift?

Watch (19 minutes)

Spiritual gifts: Special supernatural abilities given by the Holy Spirit to individual Christ followers, that allows the Holy Spirit to work through their lives to help the church fulfill its mission on the earth.

A Few Gifts to Describe and Define:

- Prophecy is _____
- Tongues is _____

Two Truths found in 1 Corinthians 12:7

- All Christians have at least _____.
- All Gifts are for the _____.

*If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but don't have love, I am only a resounding gong or clanging cymbal.
—1 Corinthians 13:1*

The gifts are given _____ you – but they're NOT just _____ you!

Two Things I See Throughout Scripture and that I've Experienced Myself:

- The more _____ I am, the more He pours out.

- The more times I place myself where the Holy Spirit is _____, the more opportunities He has to surprise me!

Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit. —Ephesians 5:18

How can I Desire the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

- Follow the _____
- Don't Settle for _____

Follow the way of love and eagerly desire the gifts of the Spirit . . .
—1 Corinthians 14:1

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. . . There are different kinds of gifts [charisma], but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

—1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

—Romans 12:6-8



Discuss

1. Based on our discussion last week, what is a spiritual gift? How is a spiritual gift different from a natural talent? What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?
2. In the last session you had the opportunity to take a Spiritual Gift Assessment. What gifts do you have according to the Assessment? Did anything surprise or puzzle you about the results?
3. How did our pastors define the spiritual gift of Tongues? What is the purpose of the gift of Tongues in the Church today?

“Speaking in Tongues is seen in the Bible in two ways: the missional gift of tongues, and the personal gift of tongues.”

- Pastor Julie Mullins

“Don't miss out on the spiritual gifts or you'll end up being spiritual weak.”

- Pastor Todd Mullins

4. Pastor Julie shared that from her experience with the Holy Spirit, she has realized two truths:

- The more desperate I am, the more He pours out.
- The more times I place myself where the Holy Spirit is moving, the more opportunities He has to surprise me!

Which of these truths have you experienced in your life? Describe the situation.

“No matter where you’ve been on your spiritual journey with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit has more for you!”

- Pastor Todd Mullins

5. Pastor Todd shared two ways we can eagerly desire the gifts. How do you practice these two ways in your life? What advice would you give a new Christian seeking their gifts and wanting to implement these two ways?

6. Do you have any questions regarding spiritual gifts? Why is it so critical for Christians to identify and start implementing their gifts?

Apply

As we finish this study on The Extreme Life, which of the following is true for you as you work with God to experience this, and which do you still need guidance and prayer on:

- Are there still “dry bones” that need to come to life? (Session 1)
- What is holding you back from living the adventure – the Spirit-filled life – that God has for you? (Session 2-3)
- Is the Holy Spirit truly your “Helper” and “Comforter,” and active in every aspect of your life? (Session 4)
- Have you identified your spiritual gift(s) and are you actively using them in the Church for the common good? (Session 5-6)

Your First 15

Start each day by spending 15 minutes with God.

- Spend 5 minutes in prayer.
- Spend 5 minutes in worship.
- Spend 5 minutes reading and reflecting on God’s Word.

Here are some passages for a deeper study this week:

- Romans 14: 17-19
- Ephesians 4:11-12
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-13

Pray

Take a few minutes to pray for the Holy Spirit to help each of you live the *extreme* life.



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