The Call to Rely on the Holy Spirit

SESSION GOALS

The point of every session is a main idea with the goal of informing our knowing, feeling and doing.

MAIN IDEA: Continual reliance on the Holy Spirit is essential for mission.

> **Head Change:** To know that the Holy Spirit presences Himself with us to heal, guide, strengthen, convict, comfort, and empower us.
> **Heart Change:** To welcome God's presence in our lives with joy an expectation.
> **Life Change:** To pray, 'Come, Holy Spirit.'

OPEN

Have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in a significant or profound way? If so, and if you feel comfortable to share with your group, describe what happened or how you felt.

Nicky and Bobby discuss how connecting with Jesus is the most important thing we can do. We can encounter Him in community and worship and the Word, and very powerfully and directly through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

VIEW

As you watch, write down how Nicky answers these questions.

What changed significantly in Nicky's life when he experienced the Holy Spirit?

Why did Paul instruct us to keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit?

What does Nicky regularly pray, at large gatherings or with people individually?

Show SESSION #4: *The Call to Rely on the Holy Spirit* (9 minutes)

REVIEW

Nicky begins this session by tracing the presence of the Holy Spirit throughout the Bible. For example, the Spirit hovers over the waters at the time of creation and lends breath to the first humans. The Spirit comes upon certain people anointed for certain tasks at certain times—like, He rests upon Bezalel in his creative endeavours, and strengthens Samson. But the prophet Joel predicts a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all people (Joel 2:28). Jesus prophesies the coming of the Spirit, too, saying, 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.' (Acts 1:8) This happens at Pentecost, when thousands are filled with the Spirit, and today the Holy Spirit fills every Jesus follower in every part of the world. Nicky also shares how the Holy Spirit changed his life when he met Jesus at the age of 18. **How has the Holy Spirit changed you since you met Jesus? Would you say you are more loving, or less loving, than**

you were a year ago, or five years ago?

Paul tells us we need to keep on being filled with Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). **Why do you think this is necessary? Would you expect to encounter God by His Spirit on your own, or in congregation with others, or both? Does your church prioritise times of ministry in which you're free to invite the Holy Spirit to meet you where you're at, to heal, encourage, or empower? Where do you need His healing, encouragement, or power today?**

We don't 'hype up' the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes down. When Nicky prays, 'Come, Holy Spirit,' he encourages us to wait, resting in the glorious weightiness of the power, peace, and presence of God. **Would you be able to explain to a friend what the Bible teaches about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, like speaking in tongues, healing, or prophesy? How do you respond when you sense God's presence? For example, do you tend to weep, laugh, sing, get goosebumps?**

BIBLE EXPLORATION

John 14:26 reads, 'But when the Father sends the Advocate as My representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—He will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.' **Can you think of a time when you were at a loss—unsure what to do—and suddenly the Holy Spirit brought truth to mind that gave you direction or prompted a decision?**

In Romans 8:26, Paul writes, 'And the Holy

Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.' **Where do you need 'help in your weakness'? Have you ever felt too overwhelmed to pray, or confused about what you should even be praying? What might it look like for you to rely on the Holy Spirit to intercede for you?**

Galatians 5:22–23 describes the fruit of the Holy Spirit—the character traits forged in us as we walk closer and closer to Jesus, becoming more and more like Him. **How has the Spirit's work in you—refining and sanctifying your personality or temperament—influenced your mission of evangelising the nations, revitalising the church, and transforming society?**

In 1 Corinthians 6:19, Pauls says, 'Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself…' In other words, you are not your own, but God's. **Does it scare you a bit to relinquish all control of your whole self to the Holy Spirit's power, or are you in a space where you can trust that, as you surrender to Him, He will only ever do you good (Luke 11:13)?**

Paul tells us that where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom (2 Corinthians 3:17). **Has the Holy Spirit perhaps set you free from addiction, anxiety, illness, or loneliness? Has He set you free to worship or to be at peace?**

LAST WORD

As we wrap up this series, may you take tremendous courage from the truth that the ever-present Holy Spirit comforts and consoles you, and empowers you to fulfil His purposes in the world. May He fill you with love, joy, peace, hope, and enthusiasm for your mission to evangelise the nations of the world, revitalise His bride the church, and transform the culture and society in which He has placed you.

DEEPER WALK

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

Read: Read Isaiah 11:1–5, a prophecy about Jesus. Reflect on the power of the Spirit of God in the life and ministry of the Messiah, and how that same Holy Spirit is alive in you.

Write: A way to encounter the Holy Spirit is through journaling, or 'morning pages', or stream of consciousness writing. Commit to a week of waking up to write for ten or fifteen minutes. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts and words as you just pour out on paper whatever comes to mind. Don't be freaked out if you get emotional. Allow the Holy Spirit to dredge the river of your soul, so His Spirit can flow freely in you and through you.

Pray: Commit to a week of praying, each morning when you wake up, 'Come, Holy Spirit.' See what God will do.