



**Lesson Aim:** To grow in our understanding and application of how the Holy Spirit works in our lives.

**Prayer:** Start your time together by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

**Icebreaker:** Take a moment and think about an elderly person that has been a positive influence in your life. How has your life been impacted by that person?

1. If you have not already written this out before coming to group, take a moment and list some ways that it seems you have seen or experienced the Holy Spirit at work. As a group, share something from your lists.
2. **Read Luke 2:21-40.** Briefly summarize what is happening in this passage.
3. What are some ways that Mary and Joseph were obedient to the word of God?
4. How does Luke describe Simeon? It seems important to Luke that his listeners know that the Spirit was involved in Simeon's life. What are the three ways that Luke mentions the Spirit in relation to Simeon?
5. How would you say that Simeon and Anna were similar?
6. Even though Luke doesn't specifically mention the Spirit in relation to Anna, what is the evidence of the Holy Spirit in her life?
7. How did Mary's, Joseph's, Simeon's and Anna's lives of obedience prepare them for events of that day in the temple?
8. **Read Romans 8:5-6.** Keeping the events of Luke 2:21-40 in mind, what does Romans say our lives will look like if we "set our minds on things of the Spirit?"
9. What are some specific ways our obedience to God can impact our awareness of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives and the lives of others?
10. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-19.** Why do you think Paul included vs. 19 in his list of instructions? How might verse 19 relate to the previous 7 and the following 3 verses?
11. Share with the group something that the Lord has impressed upon your heart today.

**Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.**

## Luke 2:21-40

These powerful moments were directed by the Holy Spirit.

### Who is the Holy Spirit?

- The Holy Spirit is fully God. (cf. Matthew 29:19-20)
- God works personally & powerfully in our lives through the Holy Spirit. (cf. John 14:26)

### What can we learn about how the Holy Spirit works from these encounters?

- The Holy Spirit works through obedience to God in the mundane moments of daily life. (verses 21-24)
  - ✓ We need a growing knowledge, understanding & obedience to God's Word.
  - ✓ We need to obey God with the things He's already told us to do.
- The Holy Spirit can reveal truth to us in personal & private moments. (verses 25-27a)
  - ✓ He wants to supply us with long-term hope through the promises of God.
  - ✓ He wants to prompt us to action in the "real-time" moments of daily life.
- The Holy Spirit can speak in specific ways with specific people. (verses 27b-40)

### How can we be more open to the Holy Spirit's work in our lives?

- Spend quality time listening to the Holy Spirit where He has already clearly spoken: God's Word, the Bible.
- Ask ourselves: Am I disobeying God in something He has already told me to do?
- Be open to promptings & leadings from the Holy Spirit, but also put them to the test.