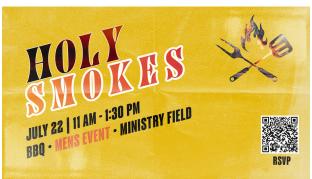
# Experience Community this Summer with us!









# HOLY SPIRIT WEEK 6 THE POWER OF CLOSENESS TO GOD AND COMMUNITY 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 : 27-31

#### The fear of chaos is not a reason to avoid charismatic gifts. It's a reason to understand them and use them wisely.

I recently came across the story of a homeless woman who was living on the streets in Oregon. Her situation had become so sad and desperate that she died. What she didn't know at the time, and what was eventually discovered, was that she had inherited \$884,000, and that money had been sitting in an account waiting for her to collect it. She just didn't know. How different could her life have been if she had possessed that inheritance?

Some of us dream of a hidden inheritance we might discover, but the real inheritance that is waiting to be possessed is the spiritual gift God has already deposited into your life. These gifts emerge as God's people walk closely with Him and in community with one another, adding a robust spiritual vitality to the church that blesses God's people and attracts the world to Jesus.

#### (5 min) OPENING PRAYER

As a Life Group, invite the Holy Spirit into your time. Ask God to stir the spiritual gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12. Ask Him to enable you to detect the prompting of His Spirit and give you the strength to step out in faith and exercise the gifts.

### (10-20 min) TIME TO CONSIDER

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through this week's lesson, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Make a thorough read of 1 Corinthians 12-14. Discuss the context that Paul was addressing at the church in Corinth. What were the problems with the way the church was exercising spiritual gifts? What were the solutions that Paul presented for them?

2. Review the gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 27-31, especially the ones not already discussed in previous studies. Describe times when you have experienced these gifts. Discuss the gifts you have, or you see in others around you. Which gifts do you think are especially important at this moment for the church?

3. Discuss tongues and interpretations of tongues based on 1 Corinthians 12 and 14. What is the purpose of tongues? According to the Bible, what are the stipulations for tongues used in the public setting?

#### WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSES:

Acts 13:1-3 "Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off"

(20 min) EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT TOGETHER: As a Life Group, take the next 15-20 minutes to pray and enter into a time of encountering the Holy Spirit. Remove distractions as best you can and start by acknowledging the presence of God's Holy Spirit among you. Consider the definitions for the various gifts represented in these chapters. Wait on the Lord and His leading and step out in faith, sharing these gifts with one another as God directs. Don't feel pressured to make something happen. Even if you sit in God's presence in silence and enjoy Him, that is a victory for your soul and your time together. Consider Acts 13:1-3 as an example of how God can move during your time of ministry to Him.

## (5 min) LIVE IT

Based on the study, be intentional, courageous, and filled with faith as you move forward with God. Pray for these spiritual gifts to be exercised in your church. Choose to be a part of what God desires to do in this regard and expect the church to be filled with renewed spiritual vitality.