

This midweek study will explore the biblical teaching of the temple of the Holy Spirit. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.

Essential Doctrine: Temple of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit indwells the church, both individually and corporately (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 12:13). As the temple of the Holy Spirit, we live lives differently than before, bearing the virtuous fruit that comes only by the indwelling work of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). This indwelling work of the Spirit also equips individual members of the church with gifts for the work of the ministry (1 Cor. 12:11).

1 The Holy Spirit indwells the church, both individually and corporately (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 12:13).

Invite students to describe what indwelling means.

- ▶ *What are the primary ways the Holy Spirit indwells the church, both individually and corporately?*

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.

- ▶ *In what ways are you the temple of the Holy Spirit?*

The Scripture says the temple of God is holy. If the temple is holy, then believers are holy.

- ▶ *How does being holy in God's sight change the way you live and think about yourself?*

Read 1 Corinthians 12:13.

This passage makes it clear that the gift of the Holy Spirit is available for all people, regardless of racial, economic, or social standing.

- ▶ *What does it say about the Holy Spirit that this gift extends to all who trust in Christ?*
- ▶ *How can you be more like the Holy Spirit in this regard?*

2 As temples of the Holy Spirit, we live life differently (1 Cor. 6:19-20; Gal. 5:22-23).

Option: Ask students to share about an encounter with an individual that changed their lives. Maybe they met a governor or an official, a famous person, someone they admire, and so on. Instruct them to explain how that experience changed their lives and caused them to see things differently.

Our encounter with Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit changes our lives as well—as temples of the Holy Spirit, our lives are not (and cannot) be the same. Instruct students to make a list of various situations in which they should live differently because they are temples of the Holy Spirit.

Read Galatians 5:22-23.

- ▶ *What fruit of the Spirit comes easy for you? What fruit do you need to rely more heavily on the Spirit to develop?*
- ▶ *As temples of the Holy Spirit, what are called to refrain from doing in this passage? Why is it important to refrain from these things?*

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is not just a spiritual reality. We are also called to honor God physically, as temples of the Holy Spirit.

- ▶ *How does “honoring God with your body” as temples of the Holy Spirit challenge you? How can you better obey this command?*

3 This work of the Spirit equips members of the church with gifts for ministry (1 Cor. 12:11; Eph. 4:11-12).

Read 1 Corinthians 12:11 and Ephesians 4:11-12.

Having different talents and abilities is a wonderful benefit to the church—a gift given by the Holy Spirit for furthering the kingdom of God.

- ▶ *In what ways are you gifted? In what ways can your gifts be used by the Holy Spirit to spread the gospel?*

God gave the church different types of gifts for a purpose. One of the greatest strengths in the church is in its diversity of gifts, abilities, talents, and ways of serving.

- ▶ *In what ways have you and your church been blessed by the variety of gifts belonging to people in your church?*

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ *How are you living differently as a temple of the Holy Spirit?*

Challenge students to recognize that the Holy Spirit indwells the church corporately and individually. Because of that indwelling, believers are called to live life differently and use their gifts granted by the Holy Spirit for ministry in the local church.