

SCHEDULE

1. Introduction	January 18, 2012
2. God and Nature	January 25, 2012
2. History and Jesus Christ	February 1, 2012
3. The Holy Spirit and the Church	February 8, 2012
4. Prayer, Worship, and the Bible	February 15, 2012
5. The Lord's Supper and Dreams	February 22, 2012
6. Work and Service	February 29, 2012
7. Friendship and Suffering	March 7, 2012

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHURCH

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT

OPENING HYMN: Charles Wesley

Spirit of faith, come down, reveal the things of God,
and make to us the Godhead known, and witness with the blood.
'Tis thine the blood to apply and give us eyes to see,
who did for ever sinner die hath surely died for me.

No one can truly say that Jesus is the Lord,
unless thou take the veil away and breathe the living Word.
Then, only then, we feel our interest in his blood,
and cry with joy unspeakable, "Thou art my Lord, my God!"

O that the world might know the all atoning Lamb!
Spirit of faith, descend and show the virtue of his name;
the grace which all may find, the saving power, impart,
and testify to human kind, and speak in every heart.

Inspire the living faith (which who so e'er receive,
the witness in themselves they have and consciously believe),
the faith that conquers all, and doth the mountain move,
and saves who-e'r on Jesus call, and perfects them in love..



OPENING PRAYER: O God, the Holy Spirit, come to us, and among us; come as the wind, and cleanse us; come as the fire, and burn; come as the dew, and refresh; convict, convert, and consecrate many hearts and lives to our great good and to thy greater glory; and this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen (Eric Milner-White, #335)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Chapter 4: The Holy Spirit

1. Which symbol speaks most to you? The dove, or wind and fire?
2. Which gift of the Holy Spirit do you most cherish? (See pages 40-41 or the chart)
3. Which one of the spiritual fruit gives you the most difficulty? (the chart, or Galatians 5:22-23)



5. THE CHURCH

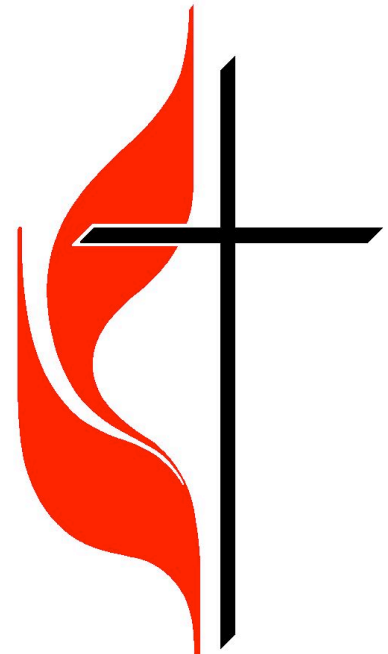
1. Can you be a Christian by yourself?
2. When is the birthday of the Church? At the cross, on Easter, or on Pentecost?
3. Which of the three descriptions of the Church speaks most to you? (1) the people of God, (2) the Body of Christ, or (3) the fellowship of the Holy Spirit?
4. Which way to most people conceive of the Church? As *Ecclesia* (organization, structure) or *koinonia* (fellowship, community)?
5. Which term is most important? Kleros/clergy (lot, magistrate) or laos/laity (people)?
6. How did you first become aware of the presence of God in the Church?

CLOSING HYMN: Samuel Stone

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.



CLOSING PRAYER: Help each of us, gracious God, to live in such magnanimity and restraint that the Head of the church may never have cause to say to any one of us, "This is my body, broken by you." Amen.