



Week Leading up to 5.23.21: The Holy Spirit Has Great Power

***(Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.)**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Jn 20:19-23

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, it is Your desire for us to be with You always. Through Your great love for us You have sent the Holy Spirit as our advocate to guide us in truth. Dear Holy Spirit, we now ask in great humility to put into words what is on our hearts. We invite you into this space and ask for Your graces to wash over us like water so that we may have a new spiritual awareness of You in our daily lives. May the wind carry Your whispers to our ears so that we can hear Your wisdom as we journey forward. Infuse in us a fire burning with great desire to intentionally be your disciples. We ask for all this in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. Do you have a personal experience of the Holy Spirit you would like to share?

YouTube Video: Bishop Barron on the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church (7:49)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=QH3tF7abpts&feature=youtu.be>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Bishop Barron indicates that the Holy Spirit can be dangerous or destructive. Have you ever considered the Holy Spirit to be dangerous or destructive? How so?
3. Bishop Barron says that, "the love of God is not a warm fuzzy." What do you think/feel he means by this?
4. What do you think/feel about the concept of the Holy Spirit handing us over to the enemy to be purified?
5. What do you think/feel about the priestly sex abuse? What do you think/feel is our responsibility/role in regard to this type of abuse? Can you think of tangible ways that we can assist in healing needed from this type of abuse?
6. Have you ever found it difficult to see the good that God can do through the evil or destruction in this world?
7. What are some things we can do to better cooperate with the Holy Spirit?

Session Challenges: {Choose one, two or all}

- Attend Mass on Pentecost and speak to the Holy Spirit from your heart, thanking Him for the ways He has made Himself known to you and ask for a greater outpouring of His grace in your life. If you struggle with faith in the power of the Holy Spirit, ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen Your faith.
- Say this prayer daily, "Holy Spirit, come into my heart. I believe in You and submit my will to Yours."
- Read CCC 687-741 to learn more about the Holy Spirit.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.)

Dear Holy Spirit, we have a holy fear of your great power. Help us to see the good that can come from your destruction. Help us to turn to you for discernment and guidance. May our will be aligned with Your will so that we can cooperate more fully with You. Watch over our group this summer and keep us safe from all harm and keep our eyes centered on You. In the name of Jesus Christ, we ask for these blessings. Amen

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: Acts 2:1-11 Sunday Reading 2: 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13