

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

**Acts 1:8 (ESV)**

*This session guide outlines suggested elements you might use to help answer the key question below and achieve the aim of the training session. The time allocations can be adjusted according to the amount of time you have.*

**Key question:** How can we better partner with God, the Holy Spirit in our daily witness?

**Aim:** To see that God has given us the gift of His Holy Spirit. By depending on Him and keeping in step with Him, God empowers us and helps us to glorify and witness to Jesus.

## Pre-video ice breaker/discussion starter (3 min)

**How would our personal evangelism go if it depended completely on us and our abilities?**

*We would recommend people split into pairs or triplets to discuss this and further questions. If you are doing more than one session over a period of time, it may be helpful for people to stick to the same pairs/groups so that they can build trust and support one another consistently.*

*We'd also recommend you either print the list of questions or display them on a screen if meeting in person. Put them into the chat feature before you head into breakout rooms if you're meeting online.*

## Play video by John McKinnon (approx. 20 min)

Download here: [apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd6-vid-download](https://apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd6-vid-download)

## Practical exercises and discussion questions (15 minutes)

*Below is a list of questions to consider using. You will not have time for all of them, so select those that you think will be most helpful for people to internalise and apply what they've just heard. Maybe you can think of others.*

1. Does the fact that we are all witnesses, either good or bad, change your mindset towards sharing your faith with others? (Acts 1:8)

# Depending on the Holy Spirit

2. Share any examples of when you've been conscious of resisting (Acts 7:51), quenching (1 Thes 5:19), grieving (Eph 4:30) or being filled with God the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18).
3. Why do we need to depend on the Holy Spirit daily and momentarily for our evangelism?
4. Brainstorm some ideas about how you can practically depend on the Holy Spirit in your witnessing and ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit each day. (Eph 5:18) *Ideas might include putting a relevant Bible verse in a prominent place where you will see it each day, including this in your usual prayer prompts if you use a list or app etc, pray about it with others, when meeting with someone you are witnessing to shoot up some arrow prayers before, during and after to ask God to help you. A simple daily prayer suggestion can be found in the Prayer time section.*
5. What difference does it make to our evangelism to be reminded that God the Holy Spirit, who indwells us, wants to magnify Jesus and save lost people?
6. How does Jesus' promise that He is always with us by the Holy Spirit, give us confidence when we seek to share the gospel? (Matt 28:19-20)

## Prayer time (12 min)

*We would recommend leaving some time for people to pray in their pairs or groups. You may like to ask them to reflect and pray about what has encouraged or challenged them from this session. They may like to include these points:*

- Thank God for His gift of the Holy Spirit and all that He has done to give you new life in Him.
- Ask God to help you to prioritise asking and desiring to be filled by the Holy Spirit daily so that you can walk in step with His Spirit (Gal 5:25) as you live and witness to Him
- Ask God to help you be more conscious of His presence, power, prompting and desire to save the lost, and pray this would help you and influence your interactions with others for His glory

## Further Bible Reflection (10 min)

*This is an additional Bible reflection to go deeper into the main theme. You may choose to use it as part of the training session. Alternatively, you could hand it out on a printout / email it around for reflection during the week, along with the "take home" questions.*

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed

to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law”

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”

**Galatians 5:16-18, 22-25 (ESV)**

**Context:** The Galatian church was birthed by the Spirit who was at work through Paul's proclamation of the gospel; but early in its life it was infiltrated by false teachers known as Judaizers who taught that people needed to be circumcised and obey the mosaic law to be believers. Paul's letter clearly teaches that justification is by faith alone and not by obedience to the Old Testament law Christians live lives of obedience by the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

**Commentary:** As Christians we die to our old way of life - 'desires of the flesh' - and in the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit, we receive the power, the guidance and the transformation we need to live a life of faith and love. The use of the term 'walk' is very helpful as it speaks to us of daily activity. The Holy Spirit empowers us to overcome in the battle between living for self - the flesh - and living for God the Spirit. The Holy Spirit guides our steps and he also produces in us qualities that magnify Jesus. Note that it is the **fruit** of the Spirit and not **fruits**. This is not a multiple-choice option as in “I choose love but not self-control”. He produces fruit within us that will magnify Jesus and help us share Him with others.

**Comment:** Take some time in your group to reflect, comment on and share together about how you can encourage one another to walk in step with the Spirit. Use the nine characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit to think through areas where you can grow personally in your walk with God.

## Take home

*You may like to print out / email around this section so that people can re-watch the video and reflect further.*

Why not re-watch the video with a notebook open, praying that God will root these principles into your heart. Watch here: [apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd6-view](https://apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd6-view)

Here's a simple prayer you may like to take away and include in your daily prayers:

*Heavenly Father, please help me to walk in step with your Spirit today. Please show me today how you are working in the lives of those around me. Please use and guide me, by your Holy Spirit, to help them know Jesus better. Amen*

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The training video is available for anyone to watch at [apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd6-view](https://apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd6-view)

More stories from everyday believers can be viewed and downloaded at [apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd6](https://apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd6)