

New England Men's
DISCIPLE-MAKERS WEEKEND

Disciples United in the Spirit

October 13-15, 2023
Camp Spofford, New Hampshire

A New England Men's Disciple-Makers Weekend

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<http://disciplemakersnetwork.org>

Objectives of The Weekend

- Encourage and equip men to become disciple-makers of Jesus through fellowship with like-hearted men of God, centered around the written word of God and prayer.
- Help disciple-makers by providing a setting that will reinforce the things they are teaching their disciples.

Our Theme

“Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.”

Philippians 2:1-2

This weekend, we will investigate what it looks like to experience fellowship with God's Spirit and with each other.

When we place our faith in the Lord Jesus, God's Holy Spirit takes up residence in us. As the apostle Paul wrote,

“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” 1 Corinthians 3:16

When the Holy Spirit comes to live in us, He establishes a relationship with us. Paul describes this relationship with the word “fellowship.” It is a full-sharing, joint participation with the Holy Spirit that influences all of our other relationships.

Get ready to be encouraged, challenged, and changed!

Schedule

- Friday, October 13
 - 7:00-8:00 - Arrive at Camp Spofford
 - 8:00 – ***Fellowship with God's Spirit***
 - 8:30 – Meeting Your Team

- Saturday, October 14
 - 7:00 – Prayer Ministry
 - 8:00 – Breakfast
 - 9:00 – ***Intent on One Purpose***
 - 10:30 – ***Preserving the Spirit's Unity***
 - 12:00 – Lunch
 - 1:00 – Workshops
 - 2:30 – Relational / Rest Time
 - 5:00 – Dinner
 - 6:15 – ***Praying in the Spirit***
 - 7:45 – ***Worshipping in the Spirit***

- Sunday, October 15
 - 7:00 – Prayer Ministry
 - 8:00 – Breakfast
 - 8:45 – Workshops
 - 10:15 – ***The Spirit of Truth***
 - 11:30 – ***Your Spirit-Empowered Next Step***
 - 12:00 – Lunch
 - 1:00 – Depart

Friday Evening 8:00

Fellowship with God's Spirit

“Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.”

Philippians 2:1-2

What is “fellowship of the Spirit”?

Fellowship of the Spirit is the ***abiding presence*** of God Himself, placed into our human spirit at the time of our salvation, and our ***active relationship*** with God, through the Holy Spirit.

Abiding Presence

- The Holy Spirit helps us to experience fellowship with Himself and with each other. - 2 Corinthians 13:14
- The Holy Spirit helps us with assurance that we are accepted by God. - Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 8:16-17

Active Relationship

- The Holy Spirit helps us to Love God and others. - Ephesians 3:14-19
- The Holy Spirit helps us to know God's will. - Romans 8:27
- The Holy Spirit helps us understand and apply God's word. - John 14:26; 16:13
- And much more...

- The Holy Spirit helps us to pray. - Romans 8:26
- The Holy Spirit speaks to our conscience. - Romans 9:1
- The Holy Spirit helps us to deal with sin. - Galatians 5:16-17
- The Holy Spirit gives us power to be witnesses for Jesus. - Acts 1:8
- The Holy Spirit teaches us how to respond when people challenge our faith. - Luke 12:8-12
- The Holy Spirit gives us comfort as we walk with God and minister to others. - Acts 9:31
- The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts for the common good of others. - 1 Corinthians 12:4-7
- The Holy Spirit gives us power to live with joy, peace, and hope. Romans 15:13
- The Holy Spirit helps us worship God. – Philippians 3:3
- And still more ...

Conclusion

Our fellowship with the Holy Spirit of God is as diverse as God is.

There is no way we can study and experience our fellowship with the Holy Spirit in just one weekend. However, we can focus on a few ways that the Holy Spirit is at work in us to build our fellowship with Himself and with each other.

Friday Evening 8:30

Your Team

Meet the men in your team.

List the names of the men on your team. Leave space below each name to write prayer requests throughout the weekend.

Close your time together in prayer, asking God to use this weekend.

Saturday Morning 9:00 -Team Session

Intent on One Purpose

READ the following verses from Philippians: 1:3-9; 1:27; 2:1-2.

Now, in the spaces beside each set of references below, each member of your team, **RECORD words or phrases from the text** which describe the **relationship** Paul and the Philippians had with each other.

- 1:3-9
- 1:27
- 2:1-2

Next, **SHARE** your list of words or phrases with the members of your team.

These words or phrases illustrate what it means to experience the ***fellowship of the Spirit.***

Now, **REVIEW** the same verses again, but this time, each member of your team, **RECORD words or phrases from the text** that tell you what Paul's ***one purpose*** was.

- 1:3-9
- 1:27
- 2:1-2

Next, **SHARE** your list of words or phrases with the members of your team, and **DISCUSS** Paul's purpose.

Now, think about the relationship between the two lists of words that you recorded.

DISCUSS what that relationship was.

One key purpose of the Church is to develop **a missionary community of love** where nonbelievers are compelled to **ask about the hope we have in Christ**.

DISCUSS how the following verses illustrate this purpose:

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."
John 13:34-35

"I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me." John 17:20-21

RECORD your thoughts and those of others:

Notice that these verses are not just about "**me**" loving lost people individually; they are about "**us**" loving the lost together. **Why is this important?**

DISCUSS: What does the Holy Spirit give us together that we don't have individually?

(If you can't think of anything, start with Ephesians 3:14-19 and Romans 5:1-5.)

The Holy Spirit works within us individually and collectively to develop us into **a community of love**.

DISCUSS how you have seen the Holy Spirit do this.

God wants to build the Church into a community of love. However, the Holy Spirit doesn't do this just for us (the "holy huddle"). Instead, the Spirit builds our community of love for a **missionary purpose**. (Remember John 13:34-35; 17:20-21)

Our challenge:

"We have lost something important – really lost touch with our kingdom identity. Christians today are out of the loop of Christ's love. They don't seem to grab a hold of Christ's love as a creative power transforming us into lovers of others, Christians and non-Christians. As a result, there are very few places where outsiders spontaneously comment on the love Christians show to one another." – Jack Miller

DISCUSS:

What are some ways that we might change that?

What are some ways that our non-Christian friends might notice the fellowship of the Holy Spirit that we and our believing friends share with each other?

Where might we start?

BEST THOUGHT FROM THIS SESSION

Review your notes from this session. Mark, highlight, or record the ***best thought*** that stood out to you from this session.

END THE SESSION IN PRAYER

Saturday Morning 10:30 – Team Session

Preserving the Spirit's Unity

READ Ephesians 4:1-7; 25-32 and **DISCUSS** the *challenges* we face to preserve the unity of the Spirit.

RECORD the key points that stand out to you from your discussion.

Ephesians 4:30 reminds us that the Holy Spirit is greatly saddened when we fail to do the things that “preserve the unity of the Spirit”:

“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

Because of this concern, the Holy Spirit works in us to help us to do the things that preserve the unity of His Spirit. Here is one illustration of how the Holy Spirit does this.

“Jesus knocks at the front door of the heart (Rev.3:20). In response we do not immediately open the door via our free will. Instead, we quickly put locks on the door and push furniture against it. The Lord then sends the Holy Spirit to slip in the back door. He goes down to the basement, where He turns up the heat and sets fires until the rising heat forces us to remove the barriers and open the front door and let Christ in. I believe that the Lord keeps right on using this backdoor approach in our growth in grace. ... He sets fires in our basement by putting us in limiting and painful circumstances.” - Jack Miller

SHARE EXAMPLES of how you have seen this process at work in your own life.

James 4:5 tells us that God, “jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us.” As a result, the Holy Spirit will do whatever is necessary to preserve our unity with His Spirit.

READ James 4:1-10

DISCUSS the various elements of the “battle” that James describes.

- Who are the different “players” in the battle?

- What are the “root issues” in the battle?

- What is the “path to victory” in the battle?

Humility is primarily a matter of **control**.

“We have an obsessive need to feel in control of our lives. Such a hunger is a primary obstacle to the Spirit’s working mightily in us and through us. ... There are certain key areas where we hold on to control and weaken the Spirit’s working in ourselves.” - Jack Miller

DISCUSS: Where do you try to control your life? **SHARE** specific examples.

(Common examples: busyness, self-centered ambitions, possessions, reputation, idols, relationships, independence, self-protection strategies, our tongues, life choices, competition, envy, etc.)

“Our Ruler/Intercessor exercises control over us by His Spirit. ... He is the primary means for Jesus’ conquest of ourselves ... Above all, the Spirit is leading us to discover empowerment through giving up control of our lives. He is calling for complete surrender daily.” - Jack Miller

Humility is an attitude/mindset of surrender.

READ Philippians 1:27 and 2:1-8

In these verses, the apostle Paul used a few different words to capture the same thought:

- 1:2 - *psuche* – one mind / one soul
- 2:2 - *phroneo* – same mind / like minded
- 2:3 - *tapeinophrosune* – humility of mind / lowliness of mind
- 2:5 - *phroneo* – attitude / mind

In these verses, Paul was talking about the way we are to think about other people.

In verse 5, Paul tells us to have the same mindset/attitude that Jesus had toward His Father.

READ Philippians 2:5-8. Together, **MAKE A LIST** of what Jesus surrendered to His Father.

DISCUSS what it might look like to surrender the same things to another person in order to ***preserve our fellowship with the Holy Spirit.***

BEST THOUGHT FROM THIS SESSION

Review your notes from this session. Mark, highlight, or record the ***best thought*** that stood out to you from this session.

END THE SESSION IN PRAYER

Saturday Afternoon 1:00

Workshops
(Tools for Discipleship)

THE SPONTANEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are some things that God planned before time began. However, there are other things that the Holy Spirit does spontaneously. These spontaneous works of the Spirit are vital in order for us to experience the fellowship of the Spirit. In this workshop, we will learn how to help men experience unconstrained, natural, authentic fellowship with God's Spirit, and with each other.

REAL CHANGE – “Becoming More Like Jesus in Everyday Life”

As we learn to walk by the Spirit, we are often confronted by pressures from hard things that can stress us and good things that can distract us. And so, at times, we respond by behaving in ways that do not honor God. We seek change, we know change is necessary, but how do we get there? Learn about a model for change that will not only help us grow and change in Christ, but will also help others to do the same. (Inspired by Jeremiah 17:5-8)

DAILY CONVERSATION WITH GOD

Ephesians 6:17-18 tells us that God's word is “the sword of the Spirit” and also, that we are to “pray at all times in the Spirit.” As a result, the most important life habit you can teach a Christian is the habit of spending time in conversation with God daily. And then, after you teach a person that habit, the next most important thing to teach him is how to teach that habit to someone else. This is what we will learn at this workshop.

Saturday Evening 6:15 – Team Session

Praying in the Spirit

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”
Ephesians 6:18

Each member of your team, **STUDY** this verse and **RECORD** the following observations from the verse:

- Who
- What
- How
- When

Then **DISCUSS** your observations with your team.

Together as a team, **RECORD** all the Scripture references you know that describe the ***who, what, how, or when*** of prayer. **SUMMARIZE** the big idea of each reference.

What is the Holy Spirit's part in helping you to apply the Scriptures your team recorded?

(If nothing comes to mind, start with 2 Peter 1:19-21; Romans 8:26-27; Ephesians 3:14-21.)

Based on your study together, **RECORD** your team's definition of "***What it means to pray in the Spirit.***"

Spend the rest of this session ***praying in the Spirit*** for each other. Pray about the things that you discussed in this session and anything else that the Holy Spirit brings to mind.

Saturday Evening 7:30

Worshipping in the Spirit

“... be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.”

Ephesians 5:18b-20

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

Colossians 3:15-16

Sunday Morning 8:45

WORKSHOPS

Choose one of the workshops listed on page 14:

THE SPONTANEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

REAL CHANGE – “Becoming More Like Jesus in Everyday Life”

DAILY CONVERSATION WITH GOD

Sunday Morning 10:15 – Team Session

The Spirit of Truth

The night before Jesus went to the cross, He promised to send the ***Spirit of truth*** to help His disciples. (**READ** John 14:16-18.)

One important aspect of our fellowship with the Holy Spirit is our relationship between the Holy Spirit and the spoken/written word of God.

“Biblical inspiration is that activity of the Holy Spirit through which He mysteriously filled the human spirit of the biblical writers and guided and overruled them, so that there arose an infallible, Spirit-wrought writing, a sacred record, a Book of God, with which the Spirit of God evermore organically unites Himself.” – Erich Sauer

READ the following verses.

2 Samuel 23:1-3

1 Peter 1:10-12

2 Peter 1:19-21

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Revelation 1:10-11

DISCUSS how the Holy Spirit’s role in creating God’s written word relates to your fellowship with the Spirit today.

In addition to influencing the original writing of Scripture, the Holy Spirit also has an ***ongoing relationship with the word of God***. Therefore, when we read/study/meditate-on/memorize/apply/teach the written word of God, we are interacting with the Holy Spirit.

READ the following verses and **DISCUSS** what Jesus promised to do for us through our relationship with the Spirit of truth.

John 14:25-26

John 15:26-27

John 16:12-13

How have you seen the Holy Spirit do those things in your life?

In Ephesians 6:10-18, the apostle Paul exhorts us to equip ourselves for our daily spiritual battle with the devil and his forces. Part of our equipment for the battle is ***“the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”***

THINK ABOUT the metaphor that Paul uses here. How does the Holy Spirit use God’s word like “a sword” against the enemy? (See Matthew 4 :1-11 and Hebrews 4:12-13)

How have you seen the Holy Spirit use God’s word in this way in your life?

BEST THOUGHT FROM THIS SESSION

Review your notes from this session. Mark, highlight, or record the ***best thought*** that stood out to you from this session.

END THE SESSION IN PRAYER

Sunday Morning 11:30

Your Spirit-Empowered Next Step

How important is YOUR role in your home, church, community?

- “God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good*.”
Genesis 1:31
- “Two are better than one because they have a good* return for their labor.” Ecclesiastes 4:9

* *ṭôb* - good, pleasant, agreeable

What does our Lord say about our role?

- “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38
- “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you ...” Matthew 28:18-20
- “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.”
Matthew 24:14

John Piper said it like this:

God ... raised [Jesus] and exalted him and subjected all things under him and then made him one with the church, as head to the body, and said, "Now, my Son, you and those with whom you are united as head to body, go forth in the universe and fill it with all that you are in your body. Let everything, from the highest heaven to the lowest hell, be filled with a revelation of your glorious perfections in the form of a chosen, destined, blood-bought, called, justified, holy, glorified, and infinitely, everlastingly satisfied people, your body, the church of the living God. Amen"

This is a role filled with the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives.

“Maybe if you are struggling in your role in your church, it’s not because you are in the wrong role, but because you have not asked his Spirit to bless, guide, and empower you in this role.”

So, what is your God-given role in your home, church, and community, and have you prayed for his Spirit to guide and empower you in it?

The apostle Paul told the Church in Colossae:

“... we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work.” Col 1:9-10

A New England Disciple-Makers Weekend

Our region is a mission field. Spiritually lost people are everywhere. We need more spiritually mature laborers who will live for Jesus in a redemptive way where they live and work. For many years, the Church in New England has been experiencing a disciple-making deficit:

“Churches today are full of people who haven’t been invited to become disciples. Being a Christian has come to mean going to church and being saved when you die. The ministry of the church is given over to ‘making the final cut’ and solving problems (marital problems, pain, and suffering), not to discipleship.” - Dallas Willard

WE ARE a network of disciple-makers living in New England who are training men and women to live intentionally, and personally, as disciple-makers of Jesus Christ wherever we are. We minister in a variety of churches throughout New England.

OUR VISION is to help create an identifiable culture of intentional, personal disciple-making throughout the Church of New England.

OUR PURPOSE is to train men and women to live intentionally, and personally, as disciple-makers of Jesus Christ so we will be models, advocates, and catalysts who reproduce other disciple-makers wherever God has placed us.

<http://disciplemakersnetwork.org>

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”

Matthew 28:18-20

NOTES:

Scriptures quoted in these notes are from a variety of Bible translations.

Quotes on pages 8, 10, 11, 12 by Jack Miller are from “*The Heart of a Servant Leader; Letters from Jack Miller.*” Edited by Barbara Miller Juliani

Quote on page 18 is by Erich Sauer, cited by Rene Pache in “*The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture.*”