



House Church Study Questions Based on the SAC Sermon on October 24, 2021

Sermon: Understanding Our Identity and Purpose
Text: Multiple Passages. . .

Gathering Guidelines

-Stay tuned for new intro videos coming soon!

Take some time to worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFByOX8Fb0M> Holy Spirit

Read (There will be multiple passages to read throughout.)

Discussion Questions:

Icebreaker Question:

What was your least favorite food as a child and do you love it or hate it now?

Question #1: Everything that exists is meant to have two primary things: an Identity and a Purpose.

When you think of 'The Church', what do you think its primary identity is? What do you think its primary purpose is?

Additional Questions for #1:

- Do you think that 'identity' is something that is given to us by something outside ourselves or is it something that is learned over time?
- Do you think that our purpose in life is always tied to our identities?

Question #2: Jesus is the foundation for our identity and our purpose as a body of believers. Read Matthew 26:63-64. What is he identified as here? Read John 12:23. What is he identified as here? Read John 3:16-17. What is his purpose here?

Additional Question for #2:

-The orthodox belief in the nature (or identity) of Jesus is that He is 100% God, and 100% Human. Is this something that you can fully understand or explain or is this a matter of faith? How do you feel about that?

Question #3: Jesus had an identity and a purpose, and so too does the Church (that's you and I as followers of Jesus).

One thing that's really important for us to know is that Jesus not only came to save us, but also *to model for us what our lives as Christians are meant to look like.*

But we have to ask ourselves a question: If we are supposed to live like Jesus, and He was perfect, then how does it even make sense that we could consider living like Jesus did? We are going to talk about this a bit more, but for now read John 14:12 and ask yourself, "Does Jesus really mean that I would do what He did?"

Additional Question for #3:

When some people read John 14:12 they think, "Well since Jesus was not only Man but also God, then He did things that only God can do, and that means that I can't be expected to do those things." Then they will often interpret this as meaning that we are called to do the things that we think are possible.
-What might be some dangers of thinking this way?

Question #4: Read Philippians 2:6-7.

There is a theological word that describes what is happening in this passage that is very important for us to understand what our lives in Jesus should look like. This theological word is *kenosis*. Kenosis means 'emptying yourself.' Jesus was fully God in his nature, but chose to not to grasp, or access His divine power and became a servant as a human being. He was fully God, and fully Man, but made the choice to *live without accessing His divine power*. In order to be entirely God the Father's servant, Jesus needed to make himself entirely dependant on the Father's will and dependant on the Holy Spirit's power.

Additional Question to #4:

Read the following passages of scripture to see how Jesus did all his ministry through the power of the Holy Spirit and not accessing His own divine power.
Luke 4:1; Luke 4:4; Luke 5:17; Matthew 12:28.
Does this begin to convince you that Jesus really did His ministry as *a Spirit-Empowered man*?

What kinds of things can you think of that Jesus did in His ministry on earth?

Ask yourself this question (this one might be a bit tough but try and think it through): What implications can you think of if Jesus did all these things not by accessing His own divine power but instead by being in submission to the Father and being a conduit of the Holy Spirit's power?

Question #5: Jesus began His ministry after he was baptized with the Holy Spirit. Read Luke 3:21-23. Notice that the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus, and then He began His ministry. Interesting hey? Now think about this: If Jesus did his ministry in submission to the Father's will, relying only on the power of the Holy Spirit, denying himself access to His own divine power and living as a spirit-empowered human being, then again, consider if this is something that Jesus modeled for us to live in also?

Are we being called to live a Holy Spirit empowered life?

If that's true then don't we already have the Holy Spirit living within us?

Yes. Read Acts 2:38.

And so we can ask ourselves: If I have the Holy Spirit living in me, and I don't do miracles like Jesus did, then I must not really be able to live out John 14:12 right?

But the Bible teaches us that there is something more that He wants for followers of Jesus. It's called 'the baptism of the Holy Spirit' and it is power from God to do the things He wants us to do, just like Jesus did.

Read Acts 1:8 (These were the Apostles. . .believers who received more)

Read John 20:21-22 (These were Apostles and other disciples. . .believers who received more)

Additional Questions to #5:

You may be wondering if the Holy Spirit baptism that was given to the people mentioned before might not be for you. If so, then read the following passages:

-Luke 3:16; Ephesians 5:17-18 (You are being encouraged to believe that this is for you.)

-Luke 11:11-13 (You are being encouraged to ask to be filled with the Spirit.)

-Acts 1:4 (You being asked to actively wait on the Spirit to fill you.)

-Acts 5:32 (You are being asked to obey what is being taught to you in order to be filled with the Spirit.)

-John 7:37-39 (You are being asked to desire and pursue Jesus and from that be filled with the Holy Spirit.)

Is this something that you want to experience?

Read Acts 1:15 and Acts 2:1-3 (These included about 120 who believed in Jesus. .
.and who were given more)

Does it seem that Jesus really did model for us a way of life in dependence on
the Holy Spirit to accomplish the mission of the Father?
(Please read the additional questions for #5)

Invitation and Mission for this week

If you are feeling drawn by God's word to be filled (baptized) with the Holy
Spirit with power to do the mission of God in your life then you may need to
spend some time pursuing Jesus and asking for this gift to be given to you. This
is not begging, or trying to convince Him, but is instead being *obedient to what
He teaches us in His word and then actively waiting on Him to pour out His
blessing on you.*

This week, purpose to spend time in prayer, praying the passages that talk
about believing, asking, obeying, waiting and desiring Jesus, for the purpose of
being filled with more of God in your life!

Prayer is the way in which we engage God in seeing His will enacted in our lives.
So press in and trust that He will accomplish His will in you.

Pray for each other