

## Leaders' Guide, BS 8: Spirit Filled Life

**Goal:** That the student would learn how to walk in the Spirit.  
Understanding that the Spirit filled life is the Christian life - a life of yielded surrender.

**Scripture:** Ephesians 5:17-18; John 15:4-5

### Getting to know you

- ☐ If this is after fall retreat, have those that went describe their experience...

### Bible discussion

*Hook:*

**As you seek to follow Christ, what words would you use to describe your experience?**

*If we are honest there should be a mix of positive words, and words like frustrated, struggling or mediocre.*

Billy Graham says that 95% of all Christians live a frustrated, or defeated Christian life. A life where they are unable to live the way they would like to.

Last week we looked at who the Holy Spirit is; this week we will look at how He enables us to live the Christian life.

*Book & Look 1:*

**The solution to successfully living the Christian life is being Filled with the Spirit.**

### Ephesians 5:17-18

*“Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”*

This is an interesting contrast that you might not have expected to find: being drunk and being filled with the spirit.

*Ask all the drunken questions first then ask all the Spirit filled questions.*

### When someone is drunk:

- ☐ Who or what is in control?  
*The alcohol*
- ☐ Do they act naturally?  
*No, they act kind of strange; they do things they wouldn't normally do*
- ☐ Are they putting a lot of effort into acting drunk?  
*No, acting that way is the natural result of being drunk*
- ☐ How obvious is it when someone is drunk?  
*Usually very obvious*

- ☐ Why?  
*Because it affects everything they do*

### When someone is filled with the Spirit

- ☐ Who or what is in control?  
*The Spirit of God*
- ☐ Do they act naturally?  
*No, we do things we wouldn't normally do. We don't act in a way that is natural for us but instead in a way that is natural for the Spirit (God)*
- ☐ Are they putting a lot of effort into acting this way?  
*No, acting that way is the natural result of being filled with the Spirit. We are not trying real hard to act like a Christian - no, acting that way is a natural result of being filled*
- ☐ How obvious would it be if someone were filled with the spirit?  
*Usually very obvious*
- ☐ Why?  
*Because it should affect everything we do*

**To be filled with the Spirit is to be Directed & Empowered by Him!**

*Book & Look 2:*

### John 15:4-5

*“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”*

- ☐ What are the chances of this branch producing fruit if it isn't connected to the vine?  
*None*
- ☐ What responsibility does this branch have in producing fruit?  
*Abiding in the vine*
- ☐ Does the vine “try real hard” to produce fruit?

No, its “efforts” should all be on maintaining its connection to the vine.

- ☐ In this word picture that Jesus give us, who is represented by the vine?

*Jesus*

- ☐ Who is represented by the branch?

*Me (the believer)*

- ☐ What does the fruit represent?

*Read Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”*

*The fruit represents Christian character and ministry*

- ☐ So... How do we produce fruit?

*By abiding in Christ, focusing my attention on Him, yielding myself to Him and His control.*

**To be filled with the Spirit is to Abide in Christ!**

*Took:*

The definition of a Spirit filled Christian is someone who is drawing on the power of the Spirit to live the Christian life.

*Leaders Note: make sure that this doesn't just sound like a “better” way to live the Christian life – it is the Christian life! The scriptures use the word carnal to describe the “alternative” to the spirit filled life. Carnal means fleshly – living in the flesh instead of the spirit and it describes this as a life of sin.*

- ☐ How do you do that?

*By faith*

**If you realize that you have not been allowing yourself to be filled with the Spirit**

- ☐ Confess (agree with God) that you have not been Spirit filled and acknowledge to Him how you ended up being that way (specific disobedience, laziness, ignorance...)
- ☐ Ask Him to direct and empower you - ask Him to fill you.
- ☐ Trust that He will. (Ephesians 5:17 commands us to be filled - so we know God wants us to be filled, and 1 John 5:14,15 tells us that when we ask for something God wants we are sure to receive it)

*Invite everyone who needs to, to pray the following prayer:*

**Here is an example of how you could express this to God:**

*“Dear Father, I need You. I acknowledge that I have sinned against You by directing my own life. I thank You for forgiving my sins through Christ’s death on the cross. I cannot do this on my own, I need You to direct and empower me. I now ask You to fill me with the Holy Spirit as You commanded me to be filled, and as You promised in your Word that You would do if I asked in faith. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Thank you for filling me with the Holy Spirit and directing my life.”*

- ☐ How often would someone need to pray this prayer?

*As often as they realized that they had retaken control of their life.*

*Give everyone a copy of “Satisfied?” and suggest that they read it once a day this week to help cement it into their hearts.*

**Announcements:**