

STRONG Christian

Small Group
Leader Guide

What is a STRONG CHRISTIAN?



A Strong Christian stands on **TRUTH**. Truth includes our values and sound theology. When a Christian is out of balance, the truth can appear cold and can be isolating.

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” **John 8:32**



A Strong Christian is rooted in the local **CHURCH**. A Christian in the church without a balance of truth and Spirit can be weak and ungrounded.

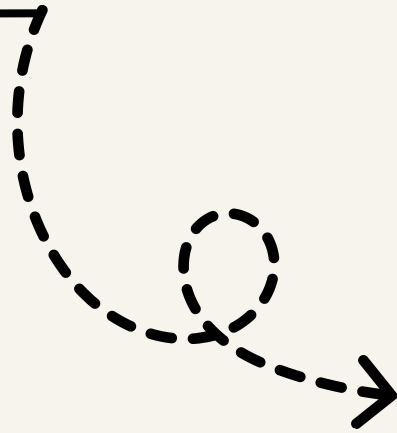
“For just as we have many parts in one body and all the body’s parts do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually parts of one another.” **Romans 12:4-5**



A Strong Christian is filled with the **SPIRIT**. A Christian filled with Spirit but lacking truth is weak and ungrounded. A Christian filled with the Spirit and standing on truth without the church is isolated.

“And this I pray, that your love may overflow still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may discover the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and blameless for the day of Christ.” **Philippians 1:9-10**

THIS
LEADER'S
GUIDE
INCLUDES





WELCOME & REVIEW

This provides some talking points from the homework and to review the memory verse work.



SESSION PLANS

to provide a road map to guide your time with your group...



DISCUSSION

Questions for discussion are primarily based on the text and are strategic for discussion. There will be 4 types of questions every week.



V

I

D

E

O

S

15-20 min videos with teaching curriculum to provide content and foundation for discussion

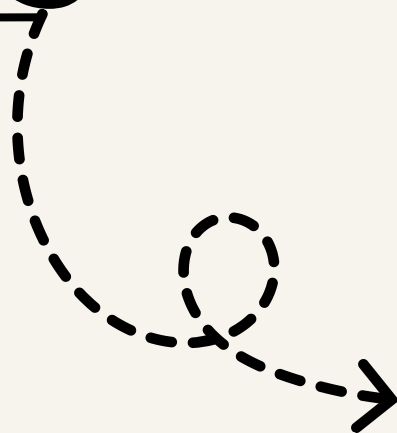
CLOSING & PRAYER

We encourage you to summarize the evening, check in on your group (gathering any prayer requests) and making time to pray together before you go.



“Homework” equips participants with *Key Take-Aways* from the lesson, *Key Scriptures* & *Questions* for reflection as well as a 5-Day Devotional.

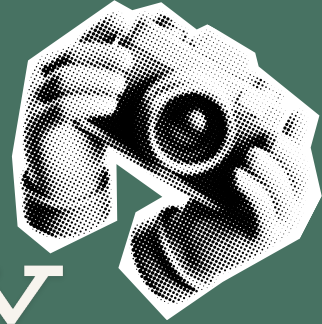
THIS
PARTICIPANT'S
GUIDE
INCLUDES





DISCUSSION

to engage in meaningful and life changing conversation with your group...



VIDEOS

15-20 min videos with teaching curriculum to provide content and foundation for discussion

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Once we *hear* the Word, we are now responsible to **DO** something with it. **James 1:22 (NASB)** says to prove yourselves as *doers* of the Word, not just *hearers who deceive themselves*. Use this section to practice prayer, journaling, meditation, and even accountability so that you can grow and bear fruit!



“Homework” provides you with some *Key Take-Aways* from the lesson, as well as *Key Scriptures & Questions* for reflection as well as a 5-Day Devotional.

LEADER'S WEEK 1

- Icebreaker
- Video
- Discussion
- Closing: Main take away / Prayer
- Homework

ICEBREAKER

Introduce yourself and then go around the room and ask everyone to share their name and a little about themselves. Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to today's session.



VIDEO

In this week's video, Ps. Jim Kuykendall shares with us on "Spiritual Fitness: The Power of God's Word."

DISCUSSION

- In today's world, where everyone seems to have their own version of truth, how do you stay grounded in believing God's Word is the ultimate Truth?
- How does understanding that Scripture is "God-breathed" impact how you approach reading and applying the Bible daily?
- In what ways have you personally experienced Scripture being "useful" in teaching, rebuking, correcting, or training in righteousness? Can you share a specific instance where a particular passage of Scripture equipped you for a challenge or task in your life?
- What practical steps can we take to ensure that God's Word remains the ultimate authority in our lives? How can we support one another in staying grounded in the truth of Scripture?

CLOSING & PRAYER

Encourage everyone to participate in homework and devotionals weekly. Pray for God to increase our hunger for His Word and help in applying its Truth in our daily lives.



HOMEWORK

See the HOMEWORK & DEVOTIONS section of the STRONG CHRISTIAN Participant Workbook for this week's assignment & 5 day reading plan.

Participant WEEK 1



VIDEO



In this week's video, Ps. Jim Kuykendall shares with us on "Spiritual Fitness: The Power of God's Word." Use the space provided to write anything from the video that resonated with you...

NOTES

DISCUSSION

- In today's world, where everyone seems to have their own version of truth, how do you stay grounded in believing God's Word is the ultimate Truth?
- How does understanding that Scripture is "God-breathed" impact how you approach reading and applying the Bible daily?
- In what ways have you personally experienced Scripture being "useful" in teaching, rebuking, correcting, or training in righteousness? Can you share a specific instance where a particular passage of Scripture equipped you for a challenge or task in your life?
- What practical steps can we take to ensure that God's Word remains the ultimate authority in our lives? How can we support one another in staying grounded in the truth of Scripture?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Spiritual discipline is more profitable than physical discipline, impacting our present life and eternity.
- The Word of God is the ultimate source of truth.
- Jesus is the embodiment of truth.
- Scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness.

Participant



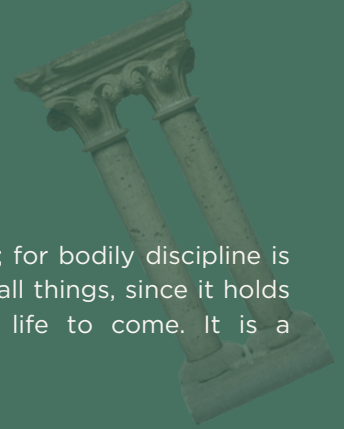
KEY SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 4:7b-9 NASB

“...discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NASB

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”



QUESTIONS...

What does "discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness" mean?

.....

How do you distinguish between "your truth," "my truth," and "the Truth"?

.....

In what ways has the Word of God been a compass in your life?

RESPONSES...

Participant

**PRACTICAL
APPLICATIONS**



- **Meditation Challenge:** Commit to meditating on 1 Timothy 4:7b-9 or 2 Timothy 3:16-17 daily for the next week and memorize.
- **Scripture Reading Challenge:** Commit to reading Psalm 119 this week, reflecting on the value and importance of God's Word.
- **Truth Journal:** Start a journal where you write down truths from Scripture that stand out to you each day.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

**Spiritual Fitness:
The Power of God's Word**

DAY 1

Passage for study: John 14:1-7, John 8:31-32

Jesus declares Himself as "the way, the truth, and the life." In a world of shifting perspectives and relative truths, we find an anchor in Christ. As we immerse ourselves in His Word, we discover the liberating power of absolute truth. Reflect on areas of your life where you may be believing lies or half-truths. How can embracing God's truth bring freedom to these areas? Today, commit to aligning your thoughts and actions with the truth of God's Word.

REFLECTION

Participant

DAY 2

Passage for study: John 1:1-14, Hebrews 4:12-13

The Word of God is not merely a collection of ancient texts; it is alive, active, and powerful. Jesus, the living Word, has been present since the beginning and continues to speak to us today through Scripture. As you read, imagine the words coming alive in your heart. How is God's Word piercing through your defenses and speaking to your deepest needs? Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate the Scriptures and reveal fresh insights for your life.

REFLECTION



DAY 3

Passage for study: 2 Timothy 3:14-17, Ephesians 2:8-10

God's Word equips us not just for salvation but for a life of purpose and good works. Each verse is divinely inspired to teach, reprove, correct, and train us in righteousness. Consider how you might move beyond simply being saved to actively living out your faith. What good works is God calling you to? How can you use the Scriptures to prepare yourself for these tasks? Intentionally commit to studying the Bible to apply its wisdom to your daily life.

REFLECTION

Participant

DAY 4

Passage for study: 1 Timothy 4:7-10, Hebrews 12:1-3

Just as physical exercise benefits our bodies, spiritual disciplines strengthen our faith. The pursuit of godliness through consistent engagement with God's Word yields eternal rewards. Reflect on your current spiritual practices. Are you as intentional about your spiritual health as you are about your physical well-being? Identify one spiritual discipline you can commit to practicing regularly, whether it's daily Bible reading, prayer, or memorizing Scripture.

REFLECTION



DAY 5

Passage for study: Romans 12:1-2, Psalm 119:9-16

God's truth has the power to transform our minds and reshape our lives. As we meditate on Scripture and apply its principles, we are gradually conformed to the image of Christ. Consider areas in your life that need transformation. How can you actively renew your mind with God's Word? Choose a verse or passage to memorize this week, allowing its truth to permeate your thoughts and actions. Pray for the Holy Spirit to use this truth to bring about lasting change in your life.

REFLECTION

LEADER'S WEEK 2

- Welcome & Review
- Video
- Discussion
- Closing: Main take away / Prayer
- Homework

WELCOME & REVIEW

Welcome everyone and discuss their engagement with homework this week.

Include the following questions:

- What stood out to you in this week's homework?
- Can anyone share the memory verse, by memory?
- Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to today's session.

VIDEO

In this week's video, Ashley Self shares with us on "Becoming a Strong Christian: Aligning with God's Word."

DISCUSSION

- How can we cultivate a daily habit of engaging with God's Word in a way that transforms our lives, rather than treating it as just another task?
- What does it mean for us personally that God's Word is 'alive and active,' and how might this change our approach to reading scripture?
- In what areas of your life do you need God's Word to "judge the thoughts and attitudes of your heart"?
- Share one specific way you plan to align your life more closely with God's Word this week.

CLOSING & PRAYER

Encourage everyone to make time to read God's word daily. Close the session by praying for strength and discipline to grow as Christians through the power of God's Word.



HOMEWORK

See the HOMEWORK & DEVOTIONS section of the STRONG CHRISTIAN Participant Workbook for this week's assignment & 5 day reading plan.

Participant WEEK 2



VIDEO



In this week's video, Ashley Self shares "Becoming a Strong Christian: Aligning with God's Word." Use the space provided to write anything from the video that resonated with you...

NOTES

DISCUSSION

- How can we cultivate a daily habit of engaging with God's Word in a way that transforms our lives, rather than treating it as just another task?
- What does it mean for us personally that God's Word is 'alive and active,' and how might this change our approach to reading scripture?
- In what areas of your life do you need God's Word to "judge the thoughts and attitudes of your heart"?
- Share one specific way you plan to align your life more closely with God's Word this week.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Spiritual strength requires discipline, similar to physical fitness.
- God's Word is a key ingredient in growing spiritually stronger.
- The Bible should be the #1 authority in a Christian's life.
- Aligning ourselves with God's Word is an ongoing process.
- The Word of God is alive, active, and transformative.

Participant



KEY SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 4:12 NIV

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.



QUESTIONS...

How do you currently incorporate God's Word into your daily life? What challenges do you face in making the Bible the primary authority in your life?

.....

How can you practically separate your soul (emotions, intellect, will) from your spirit in decision-making?

.....

In what ways can you use God's Word as a 'double-edged sword' to combat negative thoughts, cultural pressures, or spiritual attacks in your life?

RESPONSES...

Participant

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



- **Meditation Challenge:** Commit to meditating on Hebrews 4:12 daily for the next week and memorize.
- **Scripture Cards:** Create note cards with key verses and place them in visible areas of your home or car.
- **Daily Word Time:** Establish a consistent time each day to read and reflect on God's Word.
- **Accountability Partners:** Pair up with another group member to encourage each other in applying God's Word throughout the week.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL *Becoming a Strong Christian: Aligning with God's Word*

DAY 1

Passage for study: Hebrews 4:12-13

God's Word is not just a collection of ancient writings; it's alive and active, constantly speaking into our lives. As you read today's passage, reflect on how the Bible has impacted your life. How has it revealed truths about yourself that you couldn't see on your own? Consider areas where you need God's Word to penetrate and bring clarity. Pray for a renewed passion for Scripture and the courage to let it transform you from the inside out.

REFLECTION

Participant

DAY 2

Passage for study: Romans 12:1-2

Our minds are constantly bombarded by the world's messages, but God calls us to be transformed by renewing our minds through His Word. Today, identify an area where your thinking doesn't align with God's truth. Maybe it's about your identity, your purpose, or a situation you're facing. Find a scripture that speaks to this area and meditate on it throughout the day. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you replace worldly thinking with God's perspective.

REFLECTION



DAY 3

Passage for study: James 1:22-25.

Knowledge of God's Word is important, but the application leads to transformation. Reflect on a truth from Scripture you've learned recently. How can you put it into practice today? Whether extending forgiveness, showing kindness, or trusting God in a difficult situation, choose one concrete way to live out God's Word. Remember, obedience often precedes understanding, and as you act on God's truth, your faith will grow stronger.

REFLECTION

Participant

DAY 4

Passage for study: Ephesians 6:10-18

God's Word is our weapon against spiritual darkness. Think about an area where you're struggling or facing temptation. Find a specific scripture that addresses this issue and write it down. Throughout the day, whenever you face this challenge, speak the verse out loud as a declaration of truth. Trust in the power of God's Word to fight your battles and bring victory in your life.

REFLECTION



DAY 5

Passage for study: Psalm 119:105-112

In a world of uncertainty, God's Word provides an unwavering foundation. Reflect on times when Scripture has been a light to your path, guiding you through darkness. How has God's Word given you hope in difficult circumstances? Write a prayer of thanksgiving for the reliability of Scripture and commit to making it the foundation of your life. Ask God to help you build your life on His truth so that when storms come, you'll stand firm in your faith.

REFLECTION

LEADER'S WEEK 3

- Welcome & Review
- Video
- Discussion
- Closing: Main take away / Prayer
- Homework

WELCOME & REVIEW

Welcome everyone and discuss their engagement with homework this week.

Include the following questions:

- What stood out to you in this week's homework?
- Can anyone share the memory verse, by memory?
- Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to today's session.

VIDEO

In this week's video, Ps. Patrick Lander shares with us on "Standing Firm on God's Word."

DISCUSSION

- What challenges have you recently faced with maintaining a Biblical perspective in our rapidly changing world?
- What are some specific ways to ensure our worldview is shaped more by God's Word than by social media, news, or popular culture?
- Share how being a part of a Christian community has helped you maintain a Biblical worldview.
- What practical steps can we take to 'change our inputs' and align our thoughts more closely with Philippians 4:8 in our media-saturated world?

CLOSING & PRAYER

Encourage everyone to make time to read God's word daily. Close the session by praying for strength and discipline to grow as Christians through the power of God's Word.



HOMEWORK

See the HOMEWORK & DEVOTIONS section of the STRONG CHRISTIAN Participant Workbook for this week's assignment & 5 day reading plan.

Participant WEEK 3



VIDEO



In this week's video, Ps. Patrick Lander shares "Standing Firm on God's Word." Use the space provided to write anything from the video that resonated with you...

NOTES

DISCUSSION

- What challenges have you recently faced with maintaining a Biblical perspective in our rapidly changing world?
- What are some specific ways to ensure our worldview is shaped more by God's Word than by social media, news, or popular culture?
- Share how being a part of a Christian community has helped you maintain a Biblical worldview.
- What practical steps can we take to 'change our inputs' and align our thoughts more closely with Philippians 4:8 in our media-saturated world?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- A biblical worldview means viewing every aspect of life through the lens of Scripture.
- We must be intentional about not conforming to the world's patterns but being transformed by renewing our minds (Romans 12:2).
- God's Word is our guide and foundation for navigating life's challenges (Psalm 119:105).
- Developing a biblical worldview requires daily immersion in Scripture, prayer, community, and intentional input management.

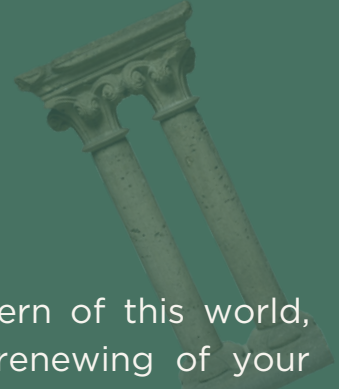
Participant



KEY SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:2 NIV

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."



QUESTIONS...

Read Romans 12:2. What does it mean to be "transformed by the renewing of your mind"? How can we practically apply this in our daily lives?

This week's message mentioned four steps to developing a biblical worldview. Which of these do you find most challenging, and why?

- Spending time in God's Word daily
 - Seeking guidance through prayer
 - Finding community in the body of Christ
 - Developing God's perspective by changing your inputs
-

What are some practical steps that you can take to overcome these challenges?

How can you lovingly communicate God's truth in a world that often rejects absolute truth?

RESPONSES...

Participant

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



- **Meditation Challenge:** Commit to meditating and on Romans 12:2 daily for the next week and memorize.
- **Input Audit:** Evaluate your media consumption. Identify one negative input to remove and replace it with something that aligns with Philippians 4:8.
- **Community Challenge:** Commit to reaching out to a fellow believer this week for encouragement or accountability in maintaining a biblical worldview.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL **Standing Firm on** God's Word

DAY 1

Passage for study: Romans 12:1-2

In a world full of conflicting messages, God calls us to a transformative journey. Today's passage reminds us that our minds are the battleground where worldly influences and God's truth compete. Reflect on areas in your life where you may have conformed to the world's patterns. How can you actively pursue the renewal of your mind? Consider starting a journal to document your thoughts and the ways God's Word challenges and changes your perspective. Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in discerning God's will and aligning your thoughts with His truth.

REFLECTION

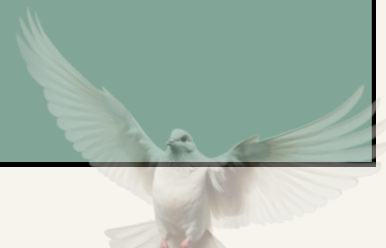
Participant

DAY 2

Passage for study: Psalm 119:105-112

Just as a lamp illuminates our physical path, God's Word lights our spiritual journey. In today's fast-paced, information-saturated world, it's easy to lose our way. Meditate on how Scripture has guided you in past decisions. Are there areas in your life where you need more of God's light? Commit to spending more time in His Word, allowing its truths to penetrate your heart and guide your steps. Consider memorizing verse 105 as a reminder of God's guidance throughout your day.

REFLECTION



DAY 3

Passage for study: James 1:5-8

In a world that often prioritizes human wisdom, today's passage reminds us of the importance of seeking God's wisdom. Reflect on recent decisions you've made. Did you seek God's guidance first, or rely on your own understanding? Take time to bring your current challenges before God, asking for His wisdom and discernment. Practice listening prayer, allowing space for God to speak to your heart. Remember, God delights in giving wisdom to those who ask in faith.

REFLECTION

Participant

DAY 4

Passage for study: Hebrews 10:23-25

We weren't meant to navigate our faith journey alone. Today's passage emphasizes the importance of Christian fellowship. In a culture that often promotes individualism, how can you deepen your connections within the body of Christ? Reflect on the ways your faith has been strengthened through community. Consider reaching out to a fellow believer today for encouragement or to offer support. Pray for opportunities to be both a giver and receiver of spiritual encouragement within your church family.

REFLECTION



DAY 5

Passage for study: Philippians 4:4-9

In a world bombarding us with negative messages, Paul's words offer a powerful antidote. Today's passage challenges us to be intentional about what we allow into our minds. Reflect on your media consumption and daily interactions. Do they align with the qualities mentioned in verse 8? Choose one area where you can make a positive change in your inputs today. Practice the art of Christian meditation by dwelling on a truth from this passage throughout your day. Close with a prayer of thanksgiving, focusing on the blessings and goodness in your life, even amidst challenges.

REFLECTION

LEADER'S WEEK 4

- Welcome & Review
- Video
- Discussion
- Closing: Main take away / Prayer
- Homework

WELCOME & REVIEW

Welcome everyone and discuss their engagement with homework this week. Include the following questions:

- What stood out to you in this week's homework?
- Can anyone share the memory verse, by memory?
- Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to today's session.



VIDEO

In this week's video, Isaac Pyo shares the topic of "The Holy Spirit our Helper."

DISCUSSION

- How might our understanding of the Holy Spirit as a person, rather than an impersonal force, change how we daily relate to and interact with Him?
- What potential barriers could prevent us from fully experiencing the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
- We heard that the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and bears witness to our true identity in Christ. Share an experience where you felt the Holy Spirit working in one of these ways.
- What are some practical methods for inviting the Holy Spirit to be our Helper, Comforter, Advocate, and Counselor in various aspects of our lives?

CLOSING & PRAYER

Encourage everyone to set aside time each day this week to intentionally invite the Holy Spirit into your activities and decisions. Close in prayer by thanking the Holy Spirit for His presence and work in our lives. Ask for a greater awareness of His guidance and a deeper relationship with Him.



HOMEWORK

See the HOMEWORK & DEVOTIONS section of the STRONG CHRISTIAN Participant Workbook for this week's assignment & 5 day reading plan.

Participant WEEK 4



VIDEO

In this week's video, Isaac Pyo shares "The Holy Spirit our Helper." Use the space provided to write anything from the video that resonated with you...

NOTES

DISCUSSION

- How might our understanding of the Holy Spirit as a person, rather than an impersonal force, change how we daily relate to and interact with Him?
- What potential barriers could prevent us from fully experiencing the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
- We heard that the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and bears witness to our true identity in Christ. Share an experience where you felt the Holy Spirit working in one of these ways.
- What are some practical methods for inviting the Holy Spirit to be our Helper, Comforter, Advocate, and Counselor in various aspects of our lives?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Holy Spirit is a person, not an "it" or a force.
- The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity.
- The Holy Spirit helps us, teaches us, and lives in us forever.

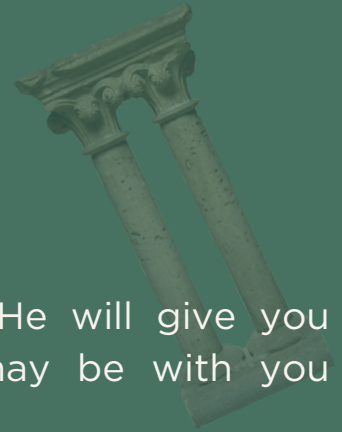
Participant



KEY SCRIPTURE

John 14:16 NASB

I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever.



QUESTIONS...

There are three roles of the Holy Spirit mentioned in the message:

- a. Helper in times of need
- b. Teacher of what we need to know
- c. Eternal presence within believers

Which of these roles resonates most with you right now and why?

How does the concept of the Holy Spirit as our "Parakletos" (one who comes alongside) impact your understanding of God's presence in your daily life?

How does the Holy Spirit's role in teaching and illuminating Scripture impact our approach to Bible study and spiritual growth?

RESPONSES...

Participant

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



- **Meditation Challenge:** Commit to meditating on John 14:16 daily for the next week and memorize.
- This week, set aside time each day to intentionally invite the Holy Spirit into your activities and decisions.
- Choose a passage of Scripture to study, asking the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal new insights.
- **Reflect** on areas in your life where you need the Holy Spirit's help. Write these down and pray for His guidance and strength.
- **Practice listening** for the Holy Spirit's voice during your prayer times. Keep a journal of any impressions or insights you receive.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL *The Holy Spirit our Helper*

DAY 1

Passage for study: John 14:15-26

As Jesus prepared His disciples for His departure, He promised them a remarkable gift: the Holy Spirit. This Helper, Comforter, and Advocate would be with them forever. Today, reflect on the Holy Spirit's role in your life. How have you experienced His guidance and comfort? Remember that you are never alone; the Spirit of God dwells within you, ready to help in times of need. Take a moment to invite the Holy Spirit's presence into your day, asking for His guidance and wisdom in all you do.

REFLECTION

Participant

DAY 2

Passage for study: John 16:5-15

Jesus described the Holy Spirit as the "Spirit of truth" who would guide believers into all truth. In a world full of conflicting voices and opinions, we have a divine Teacher who reveals God's truth to us. As you read Scripture today, ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate its meaning for you personally. How might He be convicting you of sin, righteousness, or judgment? Open your heart to His gentle correction and let Him guide you closer to the heart of God.

REFLECTION



DAY 3

Passage for study: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

The concept of our bodies being temples of the Holy Spirit is profound. God Himself chooses to dwell within us, making us His sacred dwelling place. How does this truth change the way you view yourself and your daily choices? Today, consider how you can honor God with your body, mind, and spirit, knowing that you carry His presence wherever you go. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live in a manner worthy of this incredible privilege.

REFLECTION

Participant

DAY 4

Passage for study: Acts 1:4-8 and Acts 2:1-4

The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost marked a new era for believers. No longer was God's presence limited to a physical temple; now, His Spirit empowers us from within. Reflect on the areas of your life where you need the Holy Spirit's power. Perhaps it's courage to share your faith, strength to overcome temptation, or wisdom for a difficult decision. Pray for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit today, and step out in faith, trusting in His empowering presence.

REFLECTION



DAY 5

Passage for study: Galatians 5:16-25

Paul contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit, showing us the transformative power of living by the Spirit. As you read through the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit, which ones do you see growing in your life? Which ones need more cultivation? Remember, this fruit is not produced by your own efforts but by yielding to the Holy Spirit's work in you. Today, consciously choose to "keep in step with the Spirit," allowing Him to guide your thoughts, words, and actions.

REFLECTION

LEADER'S WEEK 5

- Welcome & Review
- Video
- Discussion
- Closing: Main take away / Prayer
- Homework

WELCOME & REVIEW

Welcome everyone and discuss their engagement with homework this week. Include the following questions:

- What stood out to you in this week's homework?
- Can anyone share the memory verse, by memory?
- Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to today's session.

VIDEO

In this week's video, Barbie Acevedo shares the topic of "Walking in the Spirit: The Key to a Strong Christian Life."

DISCUSSION

- How can we cultivate a deeper awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence in our daily lives, and what might be hindering us from fully experiencing His guidance?
- What is the relationship between being filled with God's Word and being filled with the Holy Spirit? How do these two aspects work together in strengthening our faith?
- The speaker quotes Corrie Ten Boom about doing the Lord's work in our own strength versus being filled with the Holy Spirit. How have you experienced this difference in your own life?
- In light of Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:16, how can we support and encourage one another to be 'strong inwardly through His Spirit' in our small group?

CLOSING & PRAYER

Encourage everyone to set aside daily quiet time with God, focusing on His Word and presence. Practice listening for the Holy Spirit's guidance throughout their day. Pray **Ephesians 3:16** over the group, asking God to strengthen each member inwardly through His Spirit.



HOMEWORK

See the HOMEWORK & DEVOTIONS section of the STRONG CHRISTIAN Participant Workbook for this week's assignment & 5 day reading plan.

Participant WEEK 5



VIDEO

In this week's video, Barbie Acevedo shares the topic of "Walking in the Spirit: The Key to a Strong Christian Life." Use the space provided to write anything from the video that resonated with you...

NOTES

DISCUSSION

- How can we cultivate a deeper awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence in our daily lives, and what might hinder us from fully experiencing His guidance?
- What is the relationship between being filled with God's Word and being filled with the Holy Spirit? How do these two aspects work together to strengthen our faith?
- The speaker quotes Corrie Ten Boom about doing the Lord's work in our strength versus being filled with the Holy Spirit. How have you experienced this difference in your own life?
- In light of Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:16, how can we support and encourage one another to be 'strong inwardly through His Spirit' in our small group?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Holy Spirit is our helper, counselor, advocate, and teacher.
- There's a daily battle between our spirit and flesh.
- Walking by the Spirit helps us overcome the desires of the flesh.
- Being filled with the Holy Spirit enables us to live out Christ-like characteristics.
- We need the Holy Spirit's power to love and serve others effectively.

Participant



KEY SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5:16 NIV

...walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

John 15:5 NIV

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.



QUESTIONS...

What does "walking by the Spirit" mean to you practically? How can you incorporate this into your daily life?

What are some ways we can "remain in Christ" as mentioned in John 15:4-5?

How might our approach to ministry and service change if we fully embraced Corrie Ten Boom's perspective on doing the Lord's work in His strength rather than our own?

RESPONSES...

Participant

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



- **Meditation Challenge:** Commit to meditating on Galatians 5:16 or John 15:5 daily for the next week and memorize.
- Set aside daily quiet time with God, focusing on His Word and presence.
- **Practice listening** for the Holy Spirit's guidance throughout your day.
- When faced with a challenge this week, consciously choose to respond by "walking in the Spirit" rather than reacting in the flesh.
- Regularly ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit, not just daily but multiple times a day.
- Identify one fruit of the Spirit you'd like to grow in and pray specifically for the Holy Spirit's help in that area.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL *Walking in the Spirit: The Key to a Strong Christian Life*

DAY 1

Passage for study: John 14:15-26

Jesus promised us a Helper, the Holy Spirit, who would be with us always. This divine presence isn't just a concept, but a living reality for every believer. Today, reflect on how the Holy Spirit has guided, comforted, or strengthened you recently. Ask God to heighten your awareness of the Spirit's presence in your daily life. How might your decisions and actions change if you were constantly mindful of this indwelling Helper?

REFLECTION

Participant

DAY 2

Passage for study: Galatians 5:16-25

Paul describes the internal struggle between our flesh and the Spirit. Walking by the Spirit is a conscious choice we make moment by moment. Today, practice being attentive to the Spirit's promptings. When faced with decisions, pause and ask, "What would the Spirit have me do?" Notice how this mindfulness affects your choices and interactions with others. Remember, the fruit of the Spirit is evidence of His work in our lives.

REFLECTION

DAY 3

Passage for study: John 15:1-11

Jesus uses the metaphor of a vine and branches to illustrate our need to remain connected to Him. Abiding in Christ is the key to spiritual vitality and fruitfulness. Today, consider what it means to truly abide in Jesus. How can you cultivate a deeper connection with Him? Perhaps it's through extended prayer, meditating on Scripture, or simply being still in His presence. As you abide, ask the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh and produce His fruit in your life.

REFLECTION



Participant

DAY 4

Passage for study: Ephesians 5:15-21

Paul exhorts us to be filled with the Spirit, resulting in a life overflowing with worship, gratitude, and mutual submission. This filling isn't a one-time event but a continuous process. Today, surrender every area of your life to God's control. Ask Him to fill you with His Spirit, empowering you to live beyond your natural abilities. Look for opportunities to encourage others, give thanks in all circumstances, and put others' needs before your own.

REFLECTION



DAY 5

Passage for study: Ephesians 3:14-21

Paul's prayer for the Ephesians reveals God's desire to strengthen us inwardly through His Spirit. This inner strength enables us to comprehend Christ's love and be filled with God's fullness. Today, pray this passage for yourself and for others. Ask God to root you deeply in His love and empower you with His strength. Reflect on how this inner fortitude can help you face life's challenges and live out your faith boldly. Remember, God is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine through His power at work within us.

REFLECTION

LEADER'S WEEK 6

- Welcome & Review
- Video
- Discussion
- Closing: Main take away / Prayer
- Homework

WELCOME & REVIEW

Welcome everyone and discuss their engagement with homework this week. Include the following questions:

- What stood out to you in this week's homework?
- Can anyone share the memory verse, by memory?
- Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to today's session.

VIDEO

In this week's video, Ps. Riis Lewis shares the topic of "Empowered by the Spirit: Living as Witnesses."

DISCUSSION

- How might waiting for the Holy Spirit, as Jesus commanded, challenge our modern desire for immediate action and results in our spiritual lives?
- How can we cultivate a lifestyle more deeply immersed in Scripture, community, and prayer, as modeled by the early church?
- In what ways did the Holy Spirit immediately impact the disciples' ability to speak and live? How does this compare to your own experience with the Holy Spirit?
- In what ways might God call us to be witnesses 'to the ends of the earth' in our current context, and how can we prepare ourselves for this calling?

CLOSING & PRAYER

Encourage everyone to spend time this week reflecting on areas where they need the Holy Spirit's power in their life. Close in prayer thanking God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and ask for His power to be evident in your lives as you seek to be witnesses for Christ.



HOMEWORK

See the HOMEWORK & DEVOTIONS section of the STRONG CHRISTIAN Participant Workbook for this week's assignment & 5 day reading plan.

Participant WEEK 6



VIDEO



In this week's video, Ps. Riis Lewis shares the topic of "Empowered by the Spirit: Living as Witnesses." Use the space provided to write anything from the video that resonated with you...

NOTES

DISCUSSION

- How might waiting for the Holy Spirit, as Jesus commanded, challenge our modern desire for immediate action and results in our spiritual lives?
- How can we cultivate a lifestyle more deeply immersed in Scripture, community, and prayer, as modeled by the early church?
- In what ways did the Holy Spirit immediately impact the disciples' ability to speak and live? How does this compare to your own experience with the Holy Spirit?
- In what ways might God call us to be witnesses 'to the ends of the earth' in our current context, and how can we prepare ourselves for this calling?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The Holy Spirit empowers believers for a purpose, not for personal gain.
- The power of the Holy Spirit can dramatically transform how we speak and live.
- The early church provides a model for Spirit-filled community life.
- God's promises are always "Yes" in Christ.

Participant



KEY SCRIPTURE

Acts 1:8. NIV

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 ends of the earth.



QUESTIONS...

The early church was characterized by devotion, fellowship, prayer, and generosity. Which of these areas do you feel most challenged to grow in?

.....

How does the transformation of Peter from a fearful denier to a bold proclaimer of Christ speak to the potential for change in our own lives through the Holy Spirit?

.....

What barriers might be preventing you from experiencing the same level of boldness and authority as the early disciples?

RESPONSES...

Participant

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



- **Meditation Challenge:** Commit to meditating on Acts 1:8 daily for the next week and memorize.
- Spend time this week reflecting on areas where you need the Holy Spirit's power in your life.
- Practice **sharing your testimony** with a friend, focusing on how God has worked in your life.
- Identify one way you can increase your devotion to Scripture, prayer, or community this week.
- **Look for opportunities** to be generous or serve others in your community.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower you to be a bold witness for Christ.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL **Empowered by the Spirit: Living as Witnesses.**

DAY 1

Passage for study: Acts 1:4-8

Jesus promised His disciples a gift of power through the Holy Spirit. This power wasn't meant for personal gain or fame, but for a greater purpose: to be His witnesses. Today, reflect on how God's power in your life is meant to serve His kingdom purposes. Are you waiting on God's timing and seeking His power to fulfill your calling? Remember, just as the disciples were instructed to wait, sometimes our greatest strength comes through patient anticipation of God's perfect timing.

REFLECTION

Participant

DAY 2

Passage for study: Acts 2:1-12

The dramatic arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost marked a new era in God's relationship with His people. The Spirit's presence was visible and audible, leaving no doubt about God's power at work. Consider how God's presence manifests in your life today. While it may not be as dramatic as tongues of fire, His presence is no less real. How can you be more attuned to the Holy Spirit's work in and around you? Pray for a renewed sensitivity to God's presence and power in your daily life.

REFLECTION



DAY 3

Passage for study: Acts 2:14-24, 36-39

Peter's transformation from a fearful denier to a bold proclaimer of the Gospel demonstrates the Holy Spirit's power to change lives. His sermon was both biblically grounded and personally testified. Reflect on your own journey of faith. How has God's power changed you? Are you bold in sharing your faith, combining biblical truth with your personal experience of God's grace? Ask God for the courage to be His witness, just as Peter was.

REFLECTION

Participant

DAY 4

Passage for study: Acts 2:42-47

The early church's life together was marked by devotion, generosity, and joy. Their faith wasn't just proclaimed; it permeated every aspect of their lives. Examine your own life and community. Does your faith impact how you live, give, and relate to others? Pray for a deeper commitment to Scripture, fellowship, prayer, and generosity. Ask God to help you and your faith community embody the vibrant, attractive faith of the early believers.

REFLECTION



DAY 5

Passage for study: 2 Corinthians 1:18-20

Paul reminds us that all of God's promises find their "Yes" in Christ. This assurance grounds our faith in God's unchanging character and faithfulness. Reflect on the promises of God that are most meaningful to you. How have you seen these fulfilled in your life? Where are you still waiting in faith? Remember, God's timing may not always align with our expectations, but His promises never fail. Thank Him for His faithfulness and renew your trust in His perfect plan for your life.

REFLECTION

LEADER'S WEEK 7

- Welcome & Review
- Video
- Discussion
- Closing: Main take away / Prayer
- Homework

WELCOME & REVIEW

Welcome everyone and discuss their engagement with homework this week. Include the following questions:

- What stood out to you in this week's homework?
- Can anyone share the memory verse, by memory?
- Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to today's session.



VIDEO

In this week's video, Ps. Ken DeHart shares the topic of "The Church: A Family of Faith."

DISCUSSION

- Share your earliest or most memorable experience of church. How has your understanding of "church" evolved?
- How does viewing the church as "people" rather than a "place" change your perspective on your role in the church?
- Share a difficult moment when you experienced the church functioning as a family...
- How can we ensure we're not just "attending" church but actively participating in the family of faith?

CLOSING & PRAYER

Encourage everyone to continue meeting with other believers and stay connected with small groups. Pray for continued unity and growth in our church family. Ask the Holy Spirit to show us how we can personally contribute to making our church a place where everyone feels they truly belong.



HOMEWORK

See the HOMEWORK & DEVOTIONS section of the STRONG CHRISTIAN Participant Workbook for this week's assignment & 5 day reading plan.

Participant WEEK 7



VIDEO

In this week's video, Ps. Ken DeHart shares the topic of "The Church: A Family of Faith." Use the space provided to write anything from the video that resonated with you...

NOTES

DISCUSSION

- Share your earliest or most memorable experience of church. How has your understanding of "church" evolved?
- How does viewing the church as "people" rather than a "place" change your perspective on your role in the church?
- Share a difficult moment when you experienced the church functioning as a family...
- How can we ensure we're not just "attending" church but actively participating in the family of faith?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The church is not a place, but a people - the family of God.
- We belong to each other and need each other as parts of one body in Christ.
- Church is more than a weekly service; it's a family of faith we connect with regularly.
- God values family and community, not isolation.
- Challenges in church life are growth opportunities, not reasons to withdraw.

Participant



KEY SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 10:25 NIV

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.



QUESTIONS...

How does viewing the church as "people" rather than a "place" change your perspective on your role in the church?

.....

In what ways can you strengthen your church 'family ties' to ensure you're there for others in both celebration and sorrow?

.....

Reflect on an experience where you faced a challenge in church life. Write out how it led to personal or communal growth.

RESPONSES...

Participant

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



- **Meditation Challenge:** Commit to meditating on Hebrews 10:25 daily for the next week and memorize.
- Commit to **reaching out** to one church member you don't know well this week to foster a sense of family.
- **Identify** one area where you can **serve** or **contribute** to the church body using **your unique gifts**.
- If you've neglected meeting with other believers, what would it take to reconnect regularly with your church family?
- **Reflect** on any "groaning" moments you're experiencing in church life. How can you reframe these as opportunities for growth?

DAILY DEVOTIONAL *The Church: A Family of Faith*

DAY 1

Passage for study: Ephesians 1:3-14

God's love for us is so profound that He chose to adopt us into His family through Jesus Christ. Today, reflect on what it means to be part of God's family. How does this change your perspective on your relationship with other believers? Consider how you can foster a sense of belonging within your church community. Pray for a deeper understanding of your place in God's family and for opportunities to welcome others into this loving fellowship.

REFLECTION

Participant

DAY 2

Passage for study: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

The body of Christ is beautifully diverse, yet unified in purpose. Each member has a unique role to play, just as each part of our physical body has a specific function. Today, consider your gifts and how you can use them to serve the church. Reflect on how the diversity within your church community strengthens and enriches it. Ask God to help you appreciate the contributions of others and to find your place of service within the body of Christ.

REFLECTION

DAY 3

Passage for study: Hebrews 10:19-25

Regular fellowship with other believers is crucial for our spiritual growth and encouragement. In a world that often promotes isolation, God calls us to come together. Today, examine your commitment to church fellowship. Are you neglecting to meet with other believers? Consider how you can prioritize and deepen your connections within your church family. Pray for the strength to overcome any barriers that keep you from fully engaging in Christian community.

REFLECTION



Participant

DAY 4

Passage for study: James 1:2-4, Romans 5:3-5

Growth often comes through challenges and difficulties. Just as a tree's roots grow stronger as they push through hard soil, our faith can deepen through trials. Reflect on a recent challenge you've faced. How has it shaped your faith? How has your church family supported you during difficult times? Thank God for His presence in your struggles and for the growth He's bringing about in you. Pray for the strength to persevere and for eyes to see the potential for growth in every challenge.

REFLECTION



DAY 5

Passage for study: Galatians 6:1-10, Romans 12:9-21

As members of Christ's body, we are called to support and care for one another, especially in times of sorrow or difficulty. Today, consider how you can be more attentive to the needs of those around you in your church family. Is there someone who needs encouragement or practical help? Reflect on times when others have borne your burdens and how that impacted you. Pray for a compassionate heart and for wisdom to know how to effectively support your brothers and sisters in Christ.

REFLECTION



LEADER'S WEEK 8

- Welcome & Review
- Video
- Discussion
- Closing: Main take away / Prayer
- Homework

WELCOME & REVIEW

Welcome everyone and discuss their engagement with homework this week. Include the following questions:

- What stood out to you in this week's homework?
- Can anyone share the memory verse, by memory?
- Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to today's session.



VIDEO

In this week's video, Ps. Mary Capper shares the topic of "Growing Together: Builders of The Church."

DISCUSSION

- In what ways can the early church's devotion to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer be meaningfully applied in today's fast-paced, digital world?
- How does the concept of the church as 'the body of Christ' influence your view of individual roles and responsibilities within a faith community?
- With the group, share one new spiritual habit you want to develop/grow in...
- What has been your greatest takeaway from the Strong Christian study these past 8 weeks?

CLOSING & PRAYER

Close the session by praying for each group member's growth in faith, their involvement in the church, and for the church as a whole to be a place of learning, sharing, belonging, and worship



HOMEWORK

See the HOMEWORK & DEVOTIONS section of the STRONG CHRISTIAN Participant Workbook for this week's assignment & 5 day reading plan.

Participant WEEK 8



VIDEO



In this week's video, Ps. Mary Capper shares the topic of "Growing Together: Builders of The Church." Use the space provided to write anything from the video that resonated with you...

NOTES

DISCUSSION

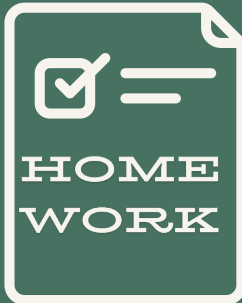
- In what ways can the early church's devotion to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer be meaningfully applied in today's fast-paced, digital world?
- How does the concept of the church as 'the body of Christ' influence your view of individual roles and responsibilities within a faith community?
- With the group, share one new spiritual habit you want to develop/grow in...
- What has been your greatest takeaway from the Strong Christian study these past 8 weeks?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The church is the body of Christ, where believers learn, grow, and serve together.
- Growth is essential in the Christian life and the church plays a vital role in fostering that growth.
- The early church model emphasizes learning, sharing, belonging, and prayer/worship.



Participant



KEY SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:42 NIV

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.



QUESTIONS...

What new habits or behaviors have you developed as a result of church teachings?

How can you better share your resources and experiences within our church community?

What are ways you can be more welcoming to a newcomer?

How has corporate prayer and worship impacted your personal faith?

What areas of your spiritual life do you feel need the most growth?

RESPONSES...

Participant

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



- **Meditation Challenge:** Commit to meditating on Hebrews 10:25 daily for the next week and memorize.
- **Commit** to a specific area of **service** in the church for the next month.
- **Reach out** to someone new in the church this week and invite them to join your small group or a church activity.
- **Share a meal** with another church member or family this week to foster deeper connections.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Growing Together:
Builders of The Church

DAY 1

Passage for study: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Today's reading reminds us that as believers, we are all part of Christ's body. Each of us has a unique role and purpose within the church community. Reflect on how you've experienced God's love through fellow believers. How can you contribute to building a loving, supportive church family? Consider reaching out to someone in your congregation this week to offer encouragement or support.

REFLECTION

Participant

DAY 2

Passage for study: Matthew 28:18-20 and Ephesians 4:22-24

Jesus commands us to make disciples and teach others to follow Him. This process involves continual learning and growth. As you read today's passages, consider areas in your spiritual life where you need renewal. What old habits or thought patterns do you need to "put off," and what new, Christ-like behaviors do you need to "put on"? Commit to studying God's Word regularly and seeking opportunities to learn from mature believers.

REFLECTION



DAY 3

Passage for study: Matthew 20:28 and John 13:34-35

Jesus set the ultimate example of servanthood, coming not to be served but to serve. His love for us compels us to love and serve others. Reflect on ways you can serve in your local church or community. How can you use your time, talents, and resources to benefit others and build God's kingdom? Ask God to show you specific opportunities to demonstrate His love through acts of service this week.

REFLECTION

Participant

DAY 4

Passage for study: Acts 2:42-47

The early church modeled radical generosity and community. They shared their possessions, ate together, and supported one another. While our context may be different, we're still called to share our lives and resources. How can you cultivate a spirit of generosity and openness in your life? Consider inviting someone from church for a meal or finding a tangible way to meet a need in your faith community.

REFLECTION



DAY 5

Passage for study: Hebrews 10:24-25 and Matthew 18:20 Today's passages emphasize the importance of gathering together for worship, prayer, and mutual encouragement. In a world that often promotes individualism, coming together as believers is a powerful witness. Reflect on how corporate worship and prayer have strengthened your faith. How can you prioritize gathering with other believers, even when it's challenging? Commit to being fully present and engaged the next time you attend a church service or small group meeting.

REFLECTION

It's time to
GIVE GOD ~~A YEAR...~~
your all.

