

**The Forgotten God: Homework for Session 1**  
**Saturday September 8<sup>th</sup>/Sunday September 9<sup>th</sup>/Wednesday September 12<sup>th</sup>**

Making room in your schedule for some advance preparation will enhance your discussion and allow the Holy Spirit to do his work in you.

Read Forgotten God Chapter 1

1. Take a moment and list some of your beliefs about the Holy Spirit.
2. Do you think your beliefs are shaped more by the Scriptures or by what you've come to experience as the normal Christian life?

Look over the following passages and jot down what each says the Holy Spirit does in a person's life. We will be diving into that topic in our discussion groups.

Acts 1:4-8

Acts 2:11-13

Acts 4:31

Romans 8:1-17

Romans 8:26-27

Romans 15:13

1 Corinthians 2:12-14

1 Corinthians 3:16

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Galatians 4:4-7

Galatians 5:16-25

Ephesians 3:14-16

1 John 4:13

**Forgotten God: Homework for Session 2**  
**Saturday September 15<sup>th</sup>/Sunday September 16<sup>th</sup>/ Wednesday September 19<sup>th</sup>**

Based on what you read in Chapter 1 and what your small group in church discussed this past weekend answer these two questions. Share and discuss your answers with your spouse or a friend you may have met in your small group.

3. What are some clear and practical ways that the Spirit can work through you to bless the people around you? Do you think that you will be able to recognize these moments?
4. For all practical purposes we seem to have forgotten that the Holy Spirit is powerful—He radically transforms the lives of Christians. Are you open to being transformed, no matter what that may mean for your life? If you want to be changed, why do you desire this? If you don't, what is keeping you from desiring change?

### **Read Forgotten God Chapter 2.**

We will discuss the following questions in the large group before we listen to Francis Chan and break into discussion groups.

1. Chapter 2 confronts us with the fears that may overtake us when finding meaning for the Holy Spirit in our lives. Why do you think it is so easy to become defensive and fearful of change when it comes to the doctrine of the Holy Spirit.
2. Francis talked about other “camps” that believe differently than we (Lutherans) do when it comes to the Holy Spirit. (You know what he means: speaking in tongues, healings, even raising hands when singing praises.) How does what these other “camps” believe challenge your faith? Have you ever been afraid that we’ve been missing out on what the Holy Spirit has to offer?
3. Most of us have experienced a time when we asked God to do something, but He did not come through in the way we expected. Maybe you are afraid that if you ask God for the Holy Spirit, nothing will happen. Or maybe you are afraid to ask for fear that he will respond with the Holy Spirit and you won't be ready to accept the challenge before you. Which is bigger for you—fear that God won't act, or fear that He will?

**Read about the rich ruler in Luke 18:18-30 before class.**

**Forgotten God: Homework for Session 3**  
**Saturday September 22<sup>nd</sup>/Sunday September 23<sup>rd</sup>/Wednesday September 26<sup>th</sup>**

Fear paralyzes us for a variety of reasons. But there is one thing in particular that we actually should be afraid of when it comes to the Holy Spirit: “Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast to what is good” (1 Thess. 5:19-21). We shouldn’t fear other people, the possibility that God won’t show up, or the possibility that He will show up. But we should be afraid of quenching the Spirit. What does quenching the Spirit mean to you?

Read Ephesians 4:30. Reflect on a few aspects of your life that you think may grieve the Holy Spirit and hinder His work in and through you. Now spend some time in prayer. Ask God to remove your fears about following the Holy Spirit. Pray that the Spirit would show you what He wants you to do and pray that God would give you’re the strength and the heart to follow wherever He might lead.

**Read Forgotten God Chapter 3**

As we study the Holy Spirit, it’s vitally important that our understanding of who He is and what He does is accurate. If our understanding is misguided, we could spend our whole lives on pursuits that grieve the Spirit.

1. Write down a few of the things that you’ve learned about the Holy Spirit in the first two sessions.
2. How should those truths start shaping the way you act?

We will discuss the above questions in the large group before we listen to Francis Chan and break into discussion groups.

**Forgotten God: Homework for Session 4**  
**Saturday September 29<sup>th</sup>/Sunday September 30<sup>th</sup> /Wednesday October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

When Jesus left the earth to go back to the Father, He left us, His followers, with an impossible task: “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). But before sending His disciples out to accomplish that task, He told them to wait for the one who would make it possible: “He ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:4-5). And as Jesus sent them out, He was clear that they would need the power of the Spirit: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses” (Acts 1:8).

Don’t forget that God gave the Holy Spirit to us. It sometimes feels difficult to be a Christian. How do we live lives that are radically different from the world around us? How do we continue the mission that Jesus began and entrusted to us? The answer is: through the power of the Holy Spirit.

God’s Spirit works in and through us in a variety of ways to glorify Himself. Below is a list of ways that He does this. For each item ask yourself, “How is the Spirit working in this way in my everyday life? Or how might He do so?”

1. The Spirit helps us when we are in precarious situations and need to bear witness. (Mark 13:11; Luke 12:12)
2. The Counselor teaches and reminds us of what we need to know and remember. He is our comforter, our advisor, our encourager, and our strength. He guides us in the way we should go. (Ps. 143:10; John 14-16; Acts 9:31; 13:2; 15:28; 1 Cor. 2:9-10; 1 John 5:6-8).
3. From the Spirit we receive power to be God’s witnesses to the ends of the earth. It is the Spirit who draws people to the gospel, the Spirit who equips us with the strength we need to accomplish God’s purposes. The Holy Spirit not only initially draws people to God the Father, but He also draws believers closer to Jesus (Acts 1:8; Rom. 8:26; Eph. 3:16-19).
4. By the power of the Spirit we put to death the misdeeds of the body. The Spirit sets us free from sin, which we cannot get rid of on our own. This is a lifelong process we entered into, in partnership with the Spirit, when we first believed (Rom. 8:2).
5. Through the Spirit we have received adoption as children which leads us into intimacy with the Father, instead of a relationship based on fear and slavery. The Spirit bears witness to us that we are God’s children (Rom. 8:15-16).

6. The Holy Spirit convicts people of sin. He does this both before we initially enter into right relationship with God and as we journey through this life as believers (John 16:7-11; 1 Thess. 1:5).
7. The Spirit brings us life and freedom. Where the Spirit is, there is freedom, not bondage or slavery. In our world that is plagued with death, this is a profound truth that points to real hope (Rom. 8:10-11; 2 Cor. 3:17).
8. By the power of the Holy Spirit we abound with hope because our God is a God of hope, who fills His children with all joy and peace (Rom. 15:13).
9. As members of God's kingdom community, each of us is given a manifestation of the Spirit in our lives for the purpose of the common good. We all have something to offer because of what the Spirit gives to us (1 Cor. 12:7).
10. The fruit of being led by the Spirit of God includes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These attitudes and actions will characterize our lives as we allow ourselves to be grown and molded by the Spirit. The Spirit is our sanctifier (Gal. 5:22-23; 2 Cor. 3:18).
11. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. When we don't know what to pray for or what to do, He actually intercedes on our behalf. He gives us strength in the midst of uncertainty and asks the Father to work according to His will (Rom. 8:26-27).

Now that you know more (or have been reminded) about what the Holy Spirit does, there's one very important question that you need to ask yourself: How does the Holy Spirit want me to cooperate with Him in His work right now?

Take some time to ponder the amazing power of the Spirit of God. Reflect in prayer about who the Holy Spirit is and His intentions for life and the world around you.

#### **Read Forgotten God Chapter 4**

3. Write down a few possible motivations for desiring the Holy Spirit—both good and bad.
4. Do you see any of these motivations in your life or in the lives of people around you?

We will discuss the above questions in the large group before we listen to Francis Chan and break into discussion groups.



**Forgotten God: Homework for Session 5**  
**Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup>/Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup>/Wednesday October 10<sup>th</sup>**

If we're going to be open for the Holy Spirit to work in our lives, we must first let go of the things that keep us from close fellowship with Him. The Spirit works through each of us so that we can build up the people around us in love. Having the Holy Spirit is not about you being everything you want to be. It's about God working through you to help the people around you. Think about these questions:

1. Do you trust that God can speak to you through the people He has placed in your life?
2. Does your desire for the Spirit include openness to the Spirit leading someone else to honestly speak truth into your life?
3. Are you willing to follow the Spirit's leading in being honest with the people around you?
4. If the proper motivation for desiring the Spirit is love, ask yourself how much you love the people around you.

Spend some time this week in prayer. Ask God for the humility and love to speak honestly into the lives of the people around you. And as other people are honest with you, ask the Spirit to work in your heart, removing the sinful thoughts and motivations and allowing you to grow and follow the Spirit for the benefit of those around you.

**Read Forgotten God Chapter 5**

What comes to mind when you think about relationships? Do you think of having long conversations? Spending time with someone? Going out of your way to make someone happy? Maybe your mind goes to a specific person and how much he or she means to you.

Or perhaps your view of relationships isn't so warm and cozy. Maybe every time you've opened your heart and life to someone you've been disappointed and burned. If that's the case, the thought of relationships might be associated with insecurity.

When it comes to a relationship with God, there is nothing worse than insecurity and nothing better than enjoying an ongoing intimacy and confidence in your relationship.

1. Honestly describe your relationship with God. Be descriptive—how does your relationship feel, how do you maintain it, and so on.
2. Paul states in Gal. 4:6 'Because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying "Abba! Father!"". The term "Abba" was the most endearing way to address a father. The modern equivalent would be the word "Daddy." It's incredible

enough that we can call almighty God our Father. But then He sends the Holy Spirit into our hearts and prompts us to cry out to Him, “Daddy”. What is the significance of Paul’s statement here? How should it affect your relationship with God to know that He sent the Holy Spirit into your heart to cry out “Abba”?

We will discuss the above questions in the large group before we listen to Francis Chan and break into discussion groups.

**Forgotten God: Homework for Session 6**  
**Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup>/Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup>/Wednesday October 17<sup>th</sup>**

Reflecting upon our last session, list some of the things that are distracting you from a real relationship with God.

Which of those things do you need to get rid of or back off on in order to pursue intimacy with God? How can you do this?

Have you been guilty of taking the Holy Spirit for granted? If so, how can you reverse that trend in your life?

Share these answers with God in prayer. Ask God to draw you closer to Him. Pray that His Holy Spirit would increase your intimacy as a child of the living God.

**Read Forgotten God Chapter 6**

What are you going to accomplish with your life? That’s a big question; maybe we can break it down into something a little easier: What’s your five-year plan? Maybe you can answer that question, no problem. Or maybe you feel sick to your stomach when you have to make plans for the weekend.

Probably the most-asked question at graduation is, “What are you going to do with your life?” For whatever reason, we tend to focus on what we can and should do in the future, rather than what we can and should do today.

This often bleeds over into our relationship with God. Most people have a common problem: “I want to follow God, but I just can’t figure out His will for my life.” This can be such a huge preoccupation that we don’t consider what God wants us to do right now, in the situations that He has placed us in at this very moment.

Answer this question to discuss at our next session: Why might it be safer to commit to the following: “God’s will for your life” rather than following God in what He may lead you to do today?

We will discuss the above question in the large group before we listen to Francis Chan and break into discussion groups.





**Forgotten God: Homework for Session 7**  
**Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup>/Sunday October 21<sup>st</sup>/Wednesday October 24<sup>th</sup>**

We all know people who are daily walking by the Spirit. These people are actively maintaining their relationship with God and constantly opening themselves to follow the Spirit's leading, whatever that may mean. The most difficult part is the daily maintenance.

Most of us are excited about submitting to the Spirit in an abstract sense. We enjoy the thought of being filled with the Spirit. But how often do you consider the way the Spirit might be leading as you spend time with your family? What might the Spirit want you to say to the people you work with? Have you thought about how the Spirit might want you to shape your budget? These are all practical areas that we rarely consider submitting to the Spirit.

Think about some of these mundane daily activities. In which of these are you prone to do your own thing without considering how the Spirit might lead you? How can you turn these activities into opportunities to follow the Spirit's leading?

As we discuss the Spirit-filled life, there can be a real pressure to try harder in our own strength to produce the "fruit of the Spirit" mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23. Maybe studying the Holy Spirit has made you feel even more overwhelmed, like you'll never be the kind of person that God wants you to be. If that's the case, then you're not seeing an important truth: *All of this life-change and obedience comes through the power of the Spirit.*

Remember that God is not calling us to do this in our own strength. It's vital to remember that not only does the Spirit guide and direct us, but He also empowers us. Paul called the Philippians to actively work *because* God was working in them (Phil. 2:12-13). As we follow the Spirit's leading in our lives He also provides the strength and power to walk. How do you think you do the work of the Spirit through the power of the Spirit? Are there any petitions you want to add to your prayer life to be granted the strength to follow the Spirit's leading in whatever He may be calling you to do?

**Read Chapter 7 in Forgotten God.**

What do these words of St. Augustine that Francis Chan gives us in the start of Chapter 7 mean to you? "What the soul is in our body, the Holy Spirit is in the body of Christ, which is the church."