



What's coming up in middle school @NCC:

- **Jump 6 • Monday, February 24 – Talent Night!** Come prepared with your best songs, dance moves & skits – it's our annual talent night and it's bound to be a blast. Bring a friend and some change because checkers will be open! Bring your friends & money for Checkers! 6:30-8:00pm.
- **Vertical Edge • Tuesday, April 25 • Campus Night!** February weather getting you down? Well, come out to VE as it is our "Aloha!" night. Wear a Hawaiian shirt or tacky tourist outfit for prizes! Make sure to bring a friend and some change because checkers will be open! Pastor Dan continues the Big Word series: "Sanctification" John 8:31-32. 7:00-9:00pm in West Court.



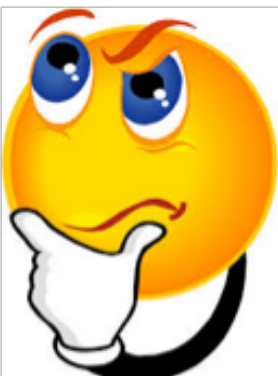
february 22/23 lesson

Series: The Empowered Church • Part 1 of 4
Lesson: Are you Plugged in?
Key Concept: The Holy Spirit empowers individual believers and the church.



Chew Time

- Read Luke 14:1-24



Think about it:

Think about all of the things in your house that need to be plugged in to work. *Would the refrigerator keep your food cold for very long if it is not plugged in? Will the toaster toast your bread? Will the blender mix your milkshake? Will the microwave pop your corn?*
No, of course not!!

Lesson Connection: Without the power of the Holy Spirit, abundant life as a Christian is impossible. Christianity is not a do-it-yourself religion. It is the Holy Spirit working through us as we trust Christ & seek to glorify God.

A) We have baptisms happening in June @Cultus Lake. What's that all about?

3 BIG Reasons for Baptism

1. We baptize as Christians because it is understood to fulfill, in part, the command of Jesus to confess him before humanity.

- ▶ **Matthew 10:32** *“Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.*
- ▶ **Romans 10:9-10** ⁹ *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.*



2. Baptism is part of fulfilling the Great Commission.

Matthew 28:16-20

The Great Commission

† ¹⁶ *Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!*

¹⁸ *Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.*

¹⁹ *Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*



Jesus showed by example that we are to be baptized by being baptized himself and as disciples of Jesus we should follow in his footsteps. (**Matthew 3:13-17**)

3. The Symbolic Meaning

Baptism, as it is practiced in the New Testament, is both a literal and a symbolic act. In **Romans 6:3-7** we are informed that we have been “*baptized into Christ Jesus*” and “*into his death*”. The literal part of this baptism is the water into which we are plunged; the symbolic part of his baptism is that we are baptized into Christ Jesus and into his death.

Romans 6:3-7

† ³ *Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? ⁴ For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.*

⁵ *Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. ⁶ We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. ⁷ For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.*



B) Water & Spirit baptism

1. Let's look at the difference between this water baptism as John the Baptist spoke of it and Jesus' baptism.

Luke 3:15-16

- † *¹⁵ Everyone was expecting the Messiah to come soon, and they were eager to know whether John might be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered their questions by saying, "I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He (Jesus) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*

Matthew 3:11

- † **John:** *"I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*

John's baptism was with water for repentance Jesus' baptism is with the Holy Spirit. Jesus' baptism is greater because it is the reality behind John's baptism.

2. Do all Christians have the Holy Spirit? **YES!!**

1 Corinthians 12:13

Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13-14

- † *¹³ And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. ¹⁴ The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.*

Breaking down these passages:

When we talk about the baptism of the Holy Spirit (**Luke 3:15-17**) we are speaking of the "indwelling" of the Spirit. In other words, when we put our faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins, the Holy Spirit of God "comes in" to our hearts. The Holy Spirit takes up residence in our hearts. From **Ephesians 1:13-14** we understand that the Holy Spirit is God's seal that we belong to Him. The word in the original Greek means "down payment" or "deposit."

3. Ephesians 5:18

- † *¹⁸ Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,*

Paul writes this command to Christians who already have the Holy Spirit in their hearts! So what is going on here? First, note that the command here is a present and ongoing command. In other words, be filled, and keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit. This is a day-by-day, minute-by-minute command for the person who follows Jesus. Second, this word "be filled" has its roots in sailing. It refers to the sails of a ship being filled with wind, not a glass being filled with water. It refers to empowerment, movement, and direction. So what does this mean? When a person accepts Jesus the Holy Spirit enters our hearts, but each day we have to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to FILL and EMPOWER us that day. We have to ask Him to push us, direct us, and motivate us, just as wind pushes a ship.

Holy Spirit's Action	Frequency	Purpose
Baptism	Once	To Live In Us. To Guarantee That We Belong To Christ
Filling	Daily	To Empower Us To Live Like Christ

Lesson Connection: Do you know as Christians that we, too, need to be plugged in? "Plugged into what?" you may ask. We need to be plugged into our power source, the Holy Spirit.

C) Acts 1:6-8 The Ascension of Jesus

† *⁶ So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"⁷ He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

What did Jesus promise just before He left the earth? If you were one of the disciples what would you be thinking now? He gave his followers a final encouragement. Look at what He said in **Acts 1:8**. Imagine being one of Jesus' followers. He is about to leave. How are you feeling? They were afraid. They were unsure of the future. They knew that the power of God was working through Jesus, but what would happen when He left?

Jesus made this amazing promise. He told them here that when He went home to the Father, the Holy Spirit would fill them, empower them, and use them to impact the entire world for the glory of God!!