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## These facilitator notes are for Lesson 6: The Mission of the Holy Spirit

Canon Ashey says the Holy Spirit initiates mission.

Acts 2 and 4 - Emphasize all bolded scriptures.

### Acts 2:36-41 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)

<sup>36</sup>Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that **God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.**

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were **cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?'** <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, **'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'** <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' <sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' <sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

### Acts 4:8-10 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)

<sup>8</sup>Then **Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them,** 'Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in **good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.**

### Acts 6 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)

#### Conflict over matters in the kitchen. Haha

**6** Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup>And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait at tables. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of **good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom,** whom we may appoint to this task, <sup>4</sup>while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.' <sup>5</sup>What they said pleased the whole community, and they **chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit,** together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup>They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

**Acts 8:29-31 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA) Founded the Ethiopian Church.**

<sup>29</sup> **Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’** <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ <sup>31</sup> He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’

### **Acts 10:34-48 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)**

#### **Banished Peter’s prejudices.**

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> **how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power**; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> **We are witnesses to all that he did** both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> **He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.** <sup>43</sup> **All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’**

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking, **the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.** <sup>45</sup> The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that **the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles,** <sup>46</sup> for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup> ‘Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people **who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?**’ <sup>48</sup> So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

### **Acts 13:2-4 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)**

<sup>2</sup> While they were **worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’** <sup>3</sup> Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

<sup>4</sup> So, being **sent out by the Holy Spirit,** they went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

### **Acts 16:6-10 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)**

#### **Preventing him from preaching in Asia.**

<sup>6</sup> They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, **having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.** <sup>7</sup> When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, **but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them;** <sup>8</sup> so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ <sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, **being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.**

### **Acts 20:22-24 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicized (NRSVA)**

<sup>22</sup> And now, **as a captive to the Spirit,** I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> **except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and persecutions are waiting for me.** <sup>24</sup> But I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to **testify to the good news of God’s grace.**

**Every initiation of mission was led by the Holy Spirit.**

**Canon's Asheys questions regarding the end of the Charismatic Renewal in the 1970's and 80's:**

1. "Did we quench the Holy Spirit by domesticating it into something for ourselves and for our churches?"
2. "Instead of listening to the Holy Spirit leading us into missions?"
3. "Is that why things died out?"
4. "Where does the Spirit want to send us?"

**Canon Ashey's challenge: "If we want a fresh Pentecost, let's call upon the Holy Spirit to show us where he wants to send us on mission." *Your thoughts?***

5. Were you apart of the Charismatic Renewal in the 70's and 80's? If so, what was your experience?
6. Have you felt the Holy Spirit direct you to a person or place? If so, what was the result?
7. The Holy Spirit prepared Peter, through a vision, to take the Gospel to the Gentiles. An angel came to Cornelius while in prayer to send for Peter. While considering the vision, Peter heard from the Holy Spirit that he was to go with men who wanted him. After arriving at Cornelius's house Peter shared the gospel and while still speaking, the Spirit fell on the whole household. Can you describe a time in your life when either: 1. God was working in you to bring salvation to others; or 2. used others to bring about salvation or revelation in your life?

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**Optional: *I Believe in the Holy Spirit*, Michael Green**

Chapter 5 - The Spirit in Mission

**Content of the apostolic message** (Page 86) "There was considerable flexibility in the way the gospel was preached to different audiences in different circumstances, coupled with great unity in presenting men with the person of Jesus, the offer of forgiveness through his death on the cross, the promise of the Holy Spirit, and the challenge to repent and believe and be baptized. Such, in essence, was the Word that the Holy Spirit could confidently be expected to take home to the hearts of the hearers. He still does."

**Conviction** (Page 89-90) "At every point the Holy Spirit is involved in the process of someone becoming a Christian. John 16:8, it is the Holy Spirit who acts as prosecuting counsel, and convicts a person of sin. No one can do that to anyone else."

**Attraction** (Page 90) “Not only is the Spirit the one who convicts a person of sin: it is he, and only he, who can make Jesus attractive. As we have already seen, it is the Spirit who bears witness to Jesus and glorifies him (John 15:26).

**Repentance** (Page 91-92) “When it comes to faith, we are left in no doubt that this is a gift of God brought about by the Holy Spirit. No man can make the Christian confession “Jesus is Lord” without the Holy Spirit enabling him to do so. (I Cor. 12:3)” “It is the Spirit who takes the things of God and reveals them to us (I Cor.2:12).”

**Adoption** (Page 92) “In other words, it is due to the work of the Holy Spirit that we become Christians at all. He is the Spirit who adopts us into the family of God alongside Jesus (Rom. 8:15, Gal. 4:6). “It is only through the agency of the Holy Spirit, enabling us to repent and believe, convicting us of sin and making Jesus attractive to us, that we ever become Christians.”

**Facilitator’s notes:** Discuss with the group the stages of the work of the Holy Spirit in wooing people to Christ: Content, Conviction, Attraction, Repentance, Adoption.

**Say together:**

BCP Page 86.

*Ever living God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*