



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Theme of the month:	Spirit-Empowered Leadership
Text for the Week:	Acts 5:12-42
Message for the Week:	"Fear Factor"
Theme for the Week:	Courage comes from living life with God.

Week 15

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

Tell the story of the last time you were afraid.

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read [Acts 5:12-42](#) out loud.

What words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

Do you have the courage to follow Jesus in obedience and the willingness to go where he sends you?

Where are you discerning that God may be sending you today? This week? This month? This New Year?

What have you done for Jesus recently that required courage?

When in the past have you experienced God's help and support when you stepped out courageously?

What are your dreams or hopes for Covenant Church that would require courage?

To what extent is your church seen as a place of Spirit-empowered leadership? What can and will you do to make that more true?

"Try It!"

In this passage, the apostles are teaching others. They are telling other people about the full message of the new life that Jesus brings. They are teaching the word of the Lord. Are we doing this? Are we telling people about the full message of the new life that Jesus brings? Do we have this new life? Are we telling others about it?

Sometime this week, share with someone the new life that you have in Jesus.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer regarding the things God revealed and that you discerned in your time with God today.

Also, spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you...pray this prayer.

Lord, as we focus this month on the theme of Spirit empowered leadership, we pray for an outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Come, Holy Spirit.

We pray Holy Spirit that You will reveal Christ to us. Come, Holy Spirit.

We pray Holy Spirit that you will shape us in the character of Christ. Come, Holy Spirit.

We pray Holy Spirit that will equip us for the mission of Christ. Come, Holy Spirit.

We pray Holy Spirit that you will form us by the early church's rule of life; devotion to the Apostle's Teaching, to the fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, AMEN.

Missional Practice for the Month:

Pray for the leaders of our church that they would be filled with the Spirit and be wise and discerning. Sometime this month, call or send a card to some of them to encourage and support them.