

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)
Explore the life of Jesus from the book of Mark and learn what it means to walk as Jesus walked.



Jesus and the Holy Spirit

Gerald Hawthorne in his book *The Presence and the Power* presents the significance of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' life:

Luke, as well as Matthew, makes explicit the source of Jesus' ability to fulfill His mission. He writes, “Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit” (4:14a).

With this extraordinary prefatory remark, Luke makes it clear, that as far as he understood things, Jesus did not begin to preach, to teach, or to perform miracles, nor did he continue to do such things (cf. 4:14b) which presupposes an extended ministry on His own initiative or by virtue of his own skills or because he possessed inherently some power for healing or exercising. Quite the contrary, Luke precisely identifies Jesus' power as the power of the Holy Spirit, and thus attributes those things Jesus did, which caused people to spread His fame far and wide (4:14b), to the dynamis, “the power,” of the Spirit. Jesus thus begins His mission armed with the Spirit and goes forward to accomplish that mission in the power of the Spirit. Here is to be found the source of Jesus' ability to restore people to wholeness and health—the Holy Spirit (pp. 147-148, 155)!

Big Idea: Jesus depended on the Holy Spirit to show us that we can walk as He walked.

LEAN IN

Get started with fun, easy, and engaging questions

As a child I couldn't wait to grow up and gain independence from my parents. But now as an adult I realize that my childhood dependence on my parents afforded me far more freedom and independence than I actually have now. How can that be?

Discuss: How is it possible to be both dependent and independent at the same time?

LOOK DOWN

Find the answers in the Scripture passages:

Have different people look up these verses and read them aloud: John 14:12-14; John 15:7-8; John 15:5-8; John 15:14-17; John 16:23-26.

Discuss: Jesus tells us to ask for some amazing things in these Scripture passages that were just read. What could happen if we took Jesus at His word?

LOOK OUT

Connect the world of the Bible to our culture:

When reading through Acts you won't be able to miss the early church's dependence on the Holy Spirit for many things. The Holy Spirit empowered Peter with words to say (Acts 4:8); He enabled believers to speak boldly in the name of Christ (Acts 4:31); He encouraged the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria (Acts 9:31); He gave the church at Antioch specific instructions of what they were to do concerning Barnabas and Saul (Acts 13:2); and He warned Paul of impending trouble (Acts 20:23). The early church depended on the Holy Spirit for the continuation of Jesus' mission.

Discuss: Do most Christians you know believe they have the same Holy Spirit in them that the early church depended on? Why or why not?

LOOK IN

Go straight to the heart of the matter:

Based on the Scripture passages that were read in the "Look Down" section, share your response to these questions.

Discuss: In what ways do you underestimate what Jesus wants to accomplish through you? What keeps you from taking Jesus at His word?

LOOK UP

Pray together:

Spend some time praising Jesus that He showed us that we can walk as He walked when we depend on the Holy Spirit as He did.

LIVE IT OUT

Share what you discovered with others and put it into action:

Go out and share what you learned about Jesus' dependence on the Holy Spirit with at least two other people. This could be a family member, co-worker, or friend.

This week, spend some time each day reflecting on how different your life would be if you depended on the Holy Spirit to help you "walk as Jesus walked."