

## **Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides**

### **October 23rd**

**Icebreaker Questions (Pick at the least one question, but use as many as your group feels comfortable)**

1. Are there any hobbies or interests that you dabble in that no one or few people in this room know about? What is it?

### **Bible Study Questions**

1. What have you been taught before about sanctification? How would you define the word “sanctification” to a child?
2. The Bible often refers to our being sanctified or “set apart” and the moment of salvation. What are some of the ways that Christians are set apart in God’s eyes? (Read Ephesians 1:1-14)
3. What is the difference between the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that happens at conversion and someone who is living a life filled with the Spirit?
4. What evidence would you expect to find with someone who is filled with the Holy Spirit? (Read Galatians 5:19-25)
5. Read Ephesians 4:20-24. What do these verses say about sanctification? What is our role and what is the role of the Holy Spirit?
6. What do you think are the biggest obstacles to someone being filled with the Holy Spirit? What are the biggest obstacles that you face?
7. AW Tozer talks about desiring the Holy Spirit being critical to being filled with him. Why is desire so important?
8. Read John 15:1-8: How is remaining in Jesus important in the process of sanctification? What does it mean to remain in Jesus?

## October 23rd The Sanctifier

AB Simpson, the founder of the Christian and Missionary Alliance attributes the most important part in his ministry to the moment that he fully surrendered his life to the work of the Holy Spirit. From that point on, he understand that God doesn't just want to save us from hell, but he wants to transform us to become like God. He wants to give us his power to win the war against sin.

### What is Sanctification?

- **Positional sanctification: Set apart by God at the moment of salvation:** Passages such as 1 Corinthians 1:2 and 6:11 refer to something special that happens to us at the point of salvation. In God's eyes, we are set apart from the world and declared to be righteous. We no longer bear the stamp of "guilty" but are declared to be "righteous".
- **Progressive sanctification: Gradual transformation by the power of the Holy Spirit:** Verses such as 1 Thessalonians 5:23 refer to sanctification as an ongoing process throughout the life of the believers. It is the work of the Holy Spirit filling the believer with power and gradually changing them to live a life that reflects the righteousness that God has already declared over his people.

### How do we get there?

- **Thirst:** AW Tozer asks two questions: "Do you want him and do you need him?" The Spirit does not force himself on us, and waits for us to want him.
- **Ask:** Jesus told his disciples to ask for the Spirit (Luke 11:13).
- **Surrender:** Romans 12:1 talks about offering ourselves as living sacrifices. The Holy Spirit is not an add on to life, but must have complete control in order to do his work. Our denomination talks about their being a "crises" experience which refers to that moment when we recognize our need for the Holy Spirit and give him control over our lives.
- **Abide:** Jesus told his disciples that if they wanted to bear fruit, then they needed to remain in him (John 15:5). As one abides in Jesus, the Holy Spirit is able to continue his work of bearing fruit in their lives.

### Conclusion

If you are a follower of Jesus, he has bought you with his blood. We have been adopted as his children, but we are not to remain as children. God's intention is that we will grow in maturity, becoming more and more like our heavenly Father. He dreams that will live a life that is victorious

over sin. Sadly, many Christians are content to stay as small children, and miss out on many of the grand blessings that he wants to pour out on us.