

WORD-SHARE-PRAYER
For personal and small group study

Name _____
Date _____

READ: Ephesians 5:18 (Be Filled with the Spirit)

18] Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit,
-NRSV-

REFLECT: Enjoy this wonderful passage. Ask God for new insights. What do you learn about the Christian life and ministry?

The following chart contains several different facets of the verb “be filled.” What is the implication of each facet for you to experience the filling of the Holy Spirit?

Facet of “be filled”	What it means to me
“be filled” is in the present tense	
“be filled” is in the imperative – it is a command	
“be filled” is a plural verb, not spoken to just one person	
“be filled” is passive, something that you do not do but that is done to you	

RESPOND: How will you apply this text to your life and ministry?

Being filled with the Spirit for the believer in Jesus Christ is always an act of humility and faith. Humility in that you open yourself to the filling and the will of God’s Spirit and faith in that you trust the Spirit to fill you (as He said He would) whether you “feel” filled or not. Are you a believer in Jesus Christ? Will you ask him to fill you and trust him to act in accord with his own promises and to do so?

REQUEST: Jot down prayer requests that you and others may have.

Word-Share-Prayer for Ministry Teams

Word-Share-Prayer (Read-Reflect-Respond-Request) is for use with small groups, committees, ministry teams, and boards. The texts are deliberately a bit short so that committees and teams with limited time can still ***"be the people of God before doing the work of the people of God."*** For small group meetings, a longer section of text may be used or just more time spent discussing each segment.

For many team and committee meetings, we follow a 7-7-7 format - 7 minutes for individual Bible Study, 7 minutes to share one insight per person and 7 minutes to pray for one another. If we use these sheets for a regular one and one-half hour Bible study, then the biblical passage could be a bit longer and our schedule would be the ***Word***-30 minutes, ***Share(sharing)*** of lives (blessings and prayer requests)-45 minutes and ***Prayer***-15 minutes.

For a ministry team/committee allow 7-7-7 minutes (plus or minus) format. If the group is larger than 12 to 14, you may find it easier to break into groups of four, at least for the sharing of prayer requests and praying for one another.

1. Give every person 5-7 minutes to work on it in silence (we don't have people do them as "homework" since many will fail to do so).
2. Spend another 7 minutes or so asking people to briefly share one insight. If the group is larger than 14, break into groups of 4 to save time.
3. Ask for one-sentence prayer requests. Spend more time on this if someone in the group is in real distress about something. Otherwise, just a sentence or so per person as we want to lift one another up but haven't the time for more sharing... unless we are willing. Teams are often willing to spend more time in this Bible study portion of the meeting simply because we will work to be more efficient in the rest of the meeting.

Pray for one another out loud by name, giving everyone the complete freedom to pray in silence if they prefer.

Hope this is useful for you... praying for you and your congregation to experience the transforming presence of our Lord in new ways.

With joy – Stan