**Resources For Group Study**

Academic

Packet

**We Believe in the Holy Spirit**

**Student Syllabus**

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| Academic Packet | **Resources for Groups** **Using the Academic Packets** |

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**About Third Millennium Ministries**

Founded in 1997, Third Millennium Ministries is a non-profit Evangelical Christian ministry dedicated to providing:

**Biblical Education. For the World. For Free.**

Our goal is to offer free Christian education to hundreds of thousands of pastors and Christian leaders around the world who lack sufficient training for ministry. We are meeting this goal by producing and globally distributing an unparalleled multimedia seminary curriculum in English, Arabic, Mandarin, Russian, and Spanish. Our curriculum is also being translated into more than a dozen other languages through our partner ministries. The curriculum consists of graphic-driven videos, printed instruction, and internet resources. It is designed to be used by schools, groups, and individuals, both online and in learning communities.

Over the years, we have developed a highly cost-effective method of producing award-winning multimedia lessons of the finest content and quality. Our writers and editors are theologically-trained educators, our translators are theologically-astute native speakers of their target languages, and our lessons contain the insights of hundreds of respected seminary professors and pastors from around the world. In addition, our graphic designers, illustrators, and producers adhere to the highest production standards using state-of-the-art equipment and techniques.

In order to accomplish our distribution goals, Third Millennium has forged strategic partnerships with churches, seminaries, Bible schools, missionaries, Christian broadcasters and satellite television providers, and other organizations. These relationships have already resulted in the distribution of countless video lessons to indigenous leaders, pastors, and seminary students. Our websites also serve as avenues of distribution and provide additional materials to supplement our lessons, including materials on how to start your own learning community.

Third Millennium Ministries is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) corporation. We depend on the generous, tax-deductible contributions of churches, foundations, businesses, and individuals. For more information about our ministry, and to learn how you can get involved, please visit [www.thirdmill.org](http://www.thirdmill.org).

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## Course Description

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Practically speaking, the Holy Spirit is the person of the Trinity who is most involved in our daily lives, but many Christians know far more about the Father and the Son than they do about the Spirit. In this series we'll discover how the doctrine of the Holy Spirit developed historically, and we'll explore the Spirit's dynamic work in the world, in the church, and in believers. This course is based on the lecture series, [*We Believe in the Holy Spirit*](http://thirdmill.org/seminary/course.asp/vs/spr), produced by Third Millennium Ministries and hosted by Dr. Ramesh Richard with contributions from a variety of professors.

## Professors

In this course a wide variety of professors from different backgrounds and different denominations participate in the making of the videos. That list has been given at the bottom of this syllabus.

## Goals and Objectives

 GOALS

 In this course, we would like to accomplish the following:

1. We hope the student will have a better understanding of the Holy Spirit's role within the Trinity.

2. We hope the student will develop a greater love for the work of the Holy Spirit in redemptive history.

3. We hope the student will more intentionally rely on the Holy Spirit for all areas of life and ministry.

OBJECTIVES

## When you have done the following, it will show that the goals are met:

## 1. Obtain satisfactory grades on the tests, demonstrating that you can: a) identify key information about the Holy Spirit's relationship with the other members of the Trinity, b) express the Bible's teaching on the Holy Spirit in both the Old and New Testaments, c) communicate the various biblical ideas concerning the proper use of spiritual gifts, and d) identify the biblical teachings on the Holy Spirit's work at conversion and throughout the believer's lifetime.

## 2. Complete all the questionnaires, in which you express your own responses and opinions regarding the topics of pneumatology and show how you have applied the teachings of the course to your own life.

## The Facilitator

This course is designed to be studied in a group with a facilitator, supervisor, or mentor. If you do not have a facilitator, you may wish to speak with your pastor or some spiritual leader in your church. The facilitator should read the "General Guidelines for Facilitators."

## Other Materials

Besides this syllabus, there are other resources you will need for this course. They should be available in the same place, or same folder, where you found this file. If not, talk to your facilitator.

## Credit

Third Millennium offers this course as a free resource for anyone, but does not offer academic credit, and cannot give personalized attention to the students. If you are seeking credit for this course with some academic institution, you should contact them and make sure you know what their agreement is regarding credit, homework, and grading. If the institution requires it, you must turn in any additional homework directly to them.

Each academic institution has the right to give the amount of credit for this course as they esteem appropriate. However, we recommend that you look at Third Millennium's suggestions for seminary programs, curriculum, and credits for each course. See the following site: [About the Third Millennium Curriculum](http://thirdmill.org/seminary/projected.asp)

## Thematic Outline of the Course

1. In the Trinity
2. In the World
3. In the Church
4. In the Believer

## General Explanation of Assignments

The guidelines for assignments below are meant to be suggestions. Each group or academic institution may customize the course according to the needs of their students. For example, some may prefer to require the additional reading, while others may not. The same applies to the optional written project. Furthermore, some may prefer to meet once a week, while others prefer to meet more often or less often. Some groups may prefer to restructure the assignments to fit a regular pattern of classes, possibly a period of eight weeks, for example.

Don't worry about the details now, since they will be given to you as you go through the assignments of each session, but in order for you to know what to plan for, the suggested assignments can be summarized as follows:

**The Lectures**

1. Watch the video lectures (or listen to the audio, or read the text version).
2. Complete the study guides for each section of each lesson. This includes writing notes on the lesson while using the outline provided, answering the review questions, and answering the application questions.
3. Take the tests on each lesson. These will be administered in the classes. (For credit, they must be graded by the authorities of the academic institution where the student is seeking credit.)

**Optional Additional Reading**

Read the additional reading. This may be done in two different ways, according to the agreement you have with the facilitator or academic institution. Option 1: Read the selected additional reading provided for this course, and take the test on it. Option 2: Read at least 300 pages of additional reading that you select from the list of "Recommended Extra Reading." In this case, you should turn in a written report on each book or article, using the "Form for reading reports." (For credit, these reports must be turned in for evaluation.)

**Optional Written Project**

Write an 8-10 page project, following the instructions found below. (For credit, this must be turned in for evaluation.)

## Grades

We recommend calculating the final grade as follows, depending on the option selected:

a) Without the additional reading or written project:

Each test is 25%.

b) Including the additional reading, but without the written project:

Each test is 20% (total: 80%).
The additional reading is 20%.

c) Including the written project, but without the additional reading:

Each test is 20% (total: 80%).
The written project is 20%.

d) Including both the additional reading and the written project:

Each test is 15% (total: 60%).
The additional reading is 20%.
The written project is 20%.

## Specific Assignments for Each Session

These plans are only suggestions. Your facilitator may decide to modify them as he talks things over with the group.

**INITIAL PLANNING MEETING**

The first meeting is a brief orientation for the course. There is no homework before the first meeting. The student will receive the materials he needs and talk over plans for the course.

NOTE: If the group is studying a series of courses, we recommend that you take advantage of the last session of each course to make arrangements for the following course, thus avoiding unnecessary extra meetings.

**LESSON 1**

Watch the first lesson in the video series from *Third Millennium*, "We Believe in the Holy Spirit." The first lesson of this series is called "In the Trinity." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the lesson.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the first video lesson, called "Old Testament." (The video time is from the beginning to 35 minutes and 51 seconds, 00-35:51.)

Remember: You may also download the audio files for listening to the lecture, or you may also read the text version.

2. Use Study Guide 1.1 to help learn the contents of the first section of the lesson. Use the outline to take notes, answer the review questions, and answer the application questions.

SECTION 2

1. Repeat this procedure for sections 2 and 3 of the video lesson, "New Testament" and "Church History" (Video time: 35:52-1:11:02), using Study Guide 1.2.

2. Review all sections of the lesson, in preparation for the test.

NOTE: If you are going to do the additional reading, we recommend that you begin to do part of it now, to avoid reading a lot at the end of the course. See the assignments below.

**LESSON 2**

Watch the second lesson of the video series, called "In the World." We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the lesson.

SECTION 1

1. Watch sections 1 and 2 of this second video lesson, called "Creation" and "Providence" (00-33:31).

2. Use Study Guide 2.1 to help learn the contents of the first section of the lesson. Use the outline to take notes, answer the review questions, and answer the application questions.

SECTION 2

1. Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Revelation" (33:32-1:00:14), using Study Guide 2.2.

SECTION 3

1. Repeat this procedure for section 4 of the video lesson, "Common Grace" (1:00:15-1:18:58),using Study Guide 2.3.

2. Review all sections of the lesson, in preparation for the test.

**LESSON 3**

Study the third lesson of the video series, called "In the Church."

We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the third video lesson, called "Covenant Grace" (00-21:56).

2. Use Study Guide 3.1 to help learn the contents of the section.

SECTION 2

1. Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Scripture" (21:57-52:39), using Study Guide 3.2.

SECTION 3

1. Repeat this procedure for section 3 of the video lesson, "Spiritual Gifts" (52:40-1:19:39), using Study Guide 3.3.

2. Review all sections of the lesson, in preparation for the test.

**LESSON 4**

Study the fourth lesson of the video series, called "In the Believer."

We have broken down the assignments into parts, according to the main sections of the video.

SECTION 1

1. Watch section 1 of the fourth video lesson, called "Conversion" (00-39:42).

2. Use Study Guide 4.1 to help learn the contents of the section.

SECTION 2

1. Repeat this procedure for section 2 of the video lesson, "Christian Living" (39:43-1:13:53), using Study Guide 4.2.

2. Review all sections of the lesson, in preparation for the test.

**ADDITIONAL READING**

Option 1:

1. Read Edwin Palmer, *The Holy Spirit*, Chapters 1-16.

You will need to purchase this from P&R Publishing:

<https://www.prpbooks.com/search?query=Edwin+Palmer&records=10>

2. Use the corresponding study guide to help find the most important points.

3. Take the test in the next class on these readings.

Note: Some groups may prefer to require only portions of the above additional reading.

Option 2:

1. Read at least 300 pages of additional reading, selecting for yourself from the list of "Recommended Extra Reading." Choose materials related to the topics of this course.

2. Fill out a separate written report on each book or article, using the "Form for Reading Reports."

3. Prepare to share what you are learning from your reading and *turn in your written reports.*

**OPTIONAL WRITTEN PROJECT**

Some groups may require a written project. If so, we recommend an essay of 8-10 pages, using the following guidelines:

1. Read the "Guidelines for Writing an Essay."

2. Choose a topic related to the subjects studied in this course. You may choose from the following suggestions, or you may choose another topic that is of special interest to you, as long as it is related to the subjects covered in this course.

Suggested topics for the essay:

1) The relationship of the Holy Spirit to the Father and the Son

2) The setting and outcome of the church councils related to the doctrine of the Holy Spirit

3) The Holy Spirit as a person and not a divine force

4) How the Spirit's work in creation was/is distinct from the Father or the Son

5) The active and passive role of the authors of Scripture

6) Survey various views of "common grace"

7) Common features of ancient Suzerain-vassal treaties

8) The Scripture's view of its own inspiration

9) Defend either the "continuationist" or the "cessationist" view of the spectacular spiritual gifts

10) Outline the various perspectives on the 'ordo salutis'

11) Survey the way the Church has interpreted the 'unpardonable sin' throughout its history

12) The use of symbols in the Old Testament to depict the Spirit's work

3. Do the research and planning for the essay. Think of questions that you want to answer in your essay and write them down. This will guide your research. You may find resources for your research by looking at the list of "Recommended Extra Reading."

4. Prepare an outline, with some notes about your ideas for the content.

5. Write a rough draft of the project.

a. Be very careful to follow the "Guidelines for Writing an Essay."
b. Make sure you include an introduction that stirs interest in the study.
c. Explain the questions that you are especially researching. In the main body, you should include possible answers to your questions that others offer, then give your own conclusions and back them up.
d. Include a conclusion, summarizing your answers.
e. Make sure to add footnotes where you have used ideas from another source (even if you do not quote the source directly), and include a bibliography at the end.

6. Finish the final version of the written project. Correct any grammatical errors or spelling mistakes. Read it aloud and make sure it is easy to understand. Polish it until it is publishable*. Be prepared to turn it in.*

## ****List of Contributors to *We Believe in the Holy Spirit*****

Pastor Rasmy Abraham is Pastor of Arabic Nazarene Church in Euless, Texas.

Dr. Danny Akin is President of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Gregg R. Allison is Professor of Christian Theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Uche Anizor is Associate Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies at the Talbot School of Theology.

Pastor Pierre Bitar is Pastor of Arabic Community Church in Allen, Texas.

Dr. P.J. Buys is Missiology Research Professor at Northwest University in South Africa.

Rev. Larry Cockrell is Senior Pastor of Household of Faith Church and faculty member of Birmingham Theological Seminary in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dr. David M. Correa is Director of the Youth Ministries Institute in Yucatan, Mexico.

Dr. Mike Fabarez is Senior Pastor of Compass Bible Church in Aliso Viejo, California.

Dr. Joseph D. Fantin is Associate Professor of New Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary.

Dr. Tim Foster is Vice Principal at Ridley College in Melbourne, Australia.

Dr. Dana M. Harris is Associate Professor of New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

Dr. J. Scott Horrell is Professor of Theological Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary.

Dr. Alan Hultberg is Associate Professor of Bible Exposition and New Testament at Talbot School of Theology.

Dr. Dennis E. Johnson is Academic Dean and Professor of Practical Theology at Westminster Seminary California.

Dr. Keith Johnson serves as the Director of Theological Education for the U.S campus ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ and is a guest professor of Systematic Theology for Reformed Theological Seminary.

Dr. Todd Johnson is Associate Professor of Global Christianity and Director of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Dr. David W. Jones is Professor of Christian Ethics at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Riad Kassis is Regional Director for Overseas Council, an international training ministry for Christian leaders.

Dr. Craig Keener is the F.M. and Ada Thompson Chair of Biblical Studies at Asbury Theological Seminary.

Prof. Mumo Kisau is Vice Chancellor and Professor at Scott Christian University in Kenya.

Dr. Glenn R. Kreider is Professor of Theological Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary.

Dr. Dan Lacich serves on the pastoral team of Northland, A Church Distributed, in Orlando FL.

Dr. Bruce Little is Senior Professor of Philosophy at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Director of the Francis A. Schaeffer Collection.

Pastor Raymond Massaad is Pastor of the Arabic Christian Fellowship in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Dr. Steve McKinion is Associate Professor of Theology and Patristic Studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. John McKinley is Associate Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies at Biola University.

Dr. Dinorah Mendez is Professor of Theology and Christian Heritage at the Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary.

Rev. Dr. Emad A. Mikhail is President of Great Commission College in Egypt.

Dr. Jeffrey J. Niehaus is Professor of Old Testament at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Rev. Mike Osborne is Associate Pastor of University Presbyterian Church in Orlando, FL.

Dr. John Oswalt is the Visiting Distinguished Professor of Old Testament at Asbury Theological Seminary.

Dr. Gregory R. Perry is Associate Professor of New Testament and Director of City Ministry Initiative at Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri.

Dr. Thomas Petter is Associate Professor of Old Testament at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Dr. Yohanes Praptowarso serves at Batu Theological Seminary.

Dr. Charles L. Quarles is professor of New Testament and Biblical Theology at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Benjamin Quinn is Associate Dean of Institutional Effectiveness for the College at Southeastern and Assistant Professor of Theology and History of Ideas at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Ramesh Richard is Professor of Global Theological Engagement and Pastoral Ministries at Dallas Theological Seminary.

Dr. Philip Graham Ryken is President and Professor of Theology at Wheaton College.

Pastor Ashraf Sara is Pastor at Living Word Arabic Church in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Mark Saucy is Professor of Theology and Chair of the Theology Department at Talbot School of Theology.

Dr. Glen Scorgie is Professor of Theology at Bethel Seminary's San Diego Campus.

Rev. Dr. Alfred Sebahene, Ph.D. is Dean at St. John’s University in Tanzania.

Dr. Imad Shehadeh is Founder, President and Professor of Theology at Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary in Amman, Jordan.

Rev.Vuyani Sindo is a lecturer at George Whitfield College in Capetown, South Africa.

Dr. Mark Strauss is Professor of New Testament at Bethel Seminary's San Diego Campus.

Rev. Dr. Justyn Terry is President and Professor of Systematic Theology at Trinity School for Ministry.

Rev. Dr. Simon Vibert is the former Vicar of St. Luke's Church, Wimbledon Park, UK, and is presently the Vice Principal of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, and Director of the School of Preaching.

Dr. Lin Yuan I is a professor at Bandung Theological Seminary in the Philippines.