

EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT



NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL SERIES
VINEYARD YOUTH CURRICULUM

vineyardyouth

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL LIVING

| EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT |

WELCOME!

to Vineyard Youth Curriculum

Hello, friends. What you hold in your hands is the product of lots of people, lots of prayer, and lots of purpose. This is a critical time in the Vineyard movement, and we believe that the work we do with students will have much influence on what the movement will look like over the next 10–20 years. We set out to design a curriculum that communicates and reinforces the biblical and kingdom values of the Vineyard while inviting students to embrace the reality that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

Understanding the diversity within the Vineyard movement, we purposefully designed curriculum that can be utilized by groups of differing sizes led by either paid or volunteer leaders in any geographical setting or location. Easy, right? We believe we accomplish this by offering a buffet of activities that allow you—the leader in the trenches—to choose what works for you and your group. We're pretty sure no one will use all of the material proposed, but we're confident some of it will be a good fit for your group.

Each lesson will include:

- An optional video component: either watch the teaching as a group, or read the notes and teach from them!
- Experiential, hands-on activities that reflect a variety of learning styles.
- Large group questions to frame a conversation (so youth group is not a lecture).
- Application suggestions to live and reveal the kingdom of God.
- Small group questions with age- and gender-specific items.
- Times for you as the leader to tune into what God is doing in your life.
- Space for students to hear from God for themselves.

This curriculum is written by youth leaders for youth leaders. If you would like to join the team and contribute your voice to the conversation, we would love to hear from you.

You may not hear this enough, but thank you for what you do. It's important, it's needed, and it's laying the foundation for a new generation of leaders to continue the good things God has already done in the Vineyard movement. Keep up the good work!

Why This Topic?

In the Vineyard we believe that Jesus came preaching and demonstrating the kingdom of God. More than that, we believe that he invites all believers to partner with him in this ministry. In this curriculum module teens will be encouraged to see themselves as empowered by the Spirit, and given the basics for learning to follow the Spirit and partner with him in the ministry of the kingdom.

Connecting to Vineyard Values

We intentionally connect our curriculum to Vineyard Values and Distinctives. Living Empowered by the Spirit connects with the Vineyard Core Value of Partnering with the Spirit. You can read more about it here: <https://vineyardusa.org/about/core-values-beliefs/>

It also connects with the Vineyard Distinctives of “Everyone Gets to Play” and living “Naturally Supernatural” lives. You can read more about these here: <https://vineyardusa.org/about/vineyard-distinctives/>

Helpful Reminders for You, the Youth Leader

In working with this curriculum there are a few ideas we’d like to keep in front of you:

Plug in your stories wherever you can. We provide the bare bones, you add the meat!

Experiential learning lasts. We’ve tried to make this as experiential as possible, rather than just providing head knowledge. As the leader, we encourage you to try it out. Take some risks!

Humor is key. It’s hard for us to artificially add this from a distance, but we encourage you to find all chances you can to connect through humor.

Context matters. We don’t know what’s going on in your group right now—but you do. We encourage you to pray and think about how this message applies to the new ones in your group, the veterans, and the seekers. How does this tie into the message of salvation through Jesus?

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL LIVING

EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT /// JESUS' KINGDOM MESSAGE AND MINISTRY



BIG IDEA

We get to partner with Jesus in the message and ministry of the kingdom!

YOUTH LEADER
SOUL CARE

In this lesson we'll be covering the message and ministry of the kingdom of God. As you prepare, take a few minutes for yourself. Meditate on the verse "your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." However, substitute "in me" for "on earth." So, "your kingdom come, your will be done IN ME as it is in heaven." Where in your life do you need God's kingdom to break in? Spend some time receiving his kingdom encouragement into your heart and into your life.

STARTER

You will need blindfolds and a prize, and you need to set up some sort of race that pairs will have to navigate together. We will be talking about partnering with the Holy Spirit, so to start let's play a game that involves partnership. Break into partners. One partner agrees to be blindfolded, while the other agrees to be the leader. The partner without the blindfold has to get their blindfolded partner across the finish line as fast as they can using only verbal commands—no touching! Of course take precautions to make sure no one gets hurt. The winning pair gets the prize!

LESSON

(Remember: You can use the video teachings if you want, found at vineyardyouthusa.com/resources. Or you can teach on your own from the notes below.)

SET UP & ENGAGE

Kick off with some discussion around this open-ended question; maybe write down some of their ideas on a whiteboard: What would you say was the core message of Jesus during his time of ministry on Earth?

POINT 1

UNDERSTANDING JESUS' MODEL

MAIN VERSE

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Mark 1:14:15

DISCUSS

Jesus' core message was the Kingdom of God.

What is the message of the kingdom?

A basic understanding of the message of the kingdom can be taken from the Lord's prayer: God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Why does it matter?

We want Jesus' message to be our message.

If we are following him we want to be about what he was about.

What is the kingdom?

It is God remaking the world as he wants it to be. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

What does the kingdom look like?

We see it talked about in Revelation 21:4—no more tears, no more pain, no more suffering, and so forth.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

Matthew 4:23-25

We see Jesus doing this healing everywhere. It is a massive part of his activity. Jesus' model and ministry was about this one thing: the kingdom—establishing God's kingship over the broken stuff in the world.

Jesus proclaims his message everywhere he goes; and he doesn't only proclaim it, he demonstrates it by bringing healing to the sick and freedom to those in bondage.

DISCUSS

To get an idea of how many times Jesus demonstrated the kingdom of God, let's do a quick brainstorming session together. In three minutes, work as a group to come up with as many miracles, healings, and deliverances as you can from memory that Jesus performed. Go!

POINT 2

WE ARE INCLUDED IN THE KINGDOM CAUSE

MAIN VERSE

As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

Matthew 10:7-8

TEACH

Jesus didn't just do this work himself. He included and invited his disciples in the cause—to do what he was doing.

Jesus drafts his disciples into the message and ministry of the kingdom.

This is what we see them doing throughout much of the rest of the gospels and in the book of Acts.

Jesus is multiplying the message and the ministry to his disciples: healing the sick, casting out demons, and bringing freedom. It's not just about Jesus doing it—it's about his church doing it too!

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

In the great commission, we see the assignment of the disciples is to teach everything he taught them to do (including the kingdom of God message and ministry). This is the calling of the church! This is for you and me!

This is the calling of the church: to continue the message and ministry of the kingdom.

We are called to multiply the message and ministry of the kingdom all over the world.

Jesus is inviting us to continue his supernatural ministry.

This is not just for specially gifted people or church staff or people who feel called. It is for all believers! Jesus says everyone can do this. Everybody gets to play.

It is something we can learn to do, and that is what we'll be talking about in this series.

Has God ever used you in a supernatural way (spoken to you prophetically, used you to bringing healing to someone, seen a miraculous prayer answered, or something like that)? Can you share it with the group?

DISCUSS

APPLY

How could we apply this to our lives as teenagers? Let's start small. This week, let's keep our eyes and ears open for someone who needs prayer for healing. It could be as small as a cough. Start praying for God to give you an opportunity to pray for healing for someone. When the opportunity presents itself, go ahead and ask if they'd mind if you prayed for them. It can be a short prayer. Just try it and see what happens!

RESPONSE

You will probably have great ideas for response because you know your group. Our hope is that we can help you as much as possible, without getting in your way. Below are some response ideas. Use what works and throw out the rest. Our main hope is that we will make this as experiential as possible for the teens.

HOLY SPIRIT ACTIVATION & MINISTRY TIME

A very simple way to respond to this message is to have a classic time of "Come Holy Spirit" prayer time. Depending on the size of your group you can do this with music, during worship, or just as prayer partners. But take some time and ask the Holy Spirit to come on each person and begin to minister to them. As you pray, you can also ask for God to start giving people opportunities to see the kingdom of God break into their lives, and break into other people's lives through them.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① Have you ever received prayer and seen God do something amazing in your life either during the prayer time or after?
- ② Do you think that praying for healing and seeing God's kingdom break into people's lives was just for biblical times? Or do you think it can happen in your life today? Do you think it should happen? Do you think this is part of the church's mission and calling today? Why or why not?
- ③ Is there anything in your life right now that could use God's supernatural breakthrough? Can we take a second and pray for you?

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL LIVING

///EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT ///



BIG IDEA

We are empowered by the Spirit just as Jesus was.

YOUTH LEADER SOUL CARE

So often it feels like we are doing ministry out of our own ability, strength and power. It is easy to fall into that mindset: to strive and to achieve and to make it all about our effort. When we realize we really can't do effective ministry in our own strength, then we can experience greater freedom and empowerment. It is the Holy Spirit who works in the hearts of others, so we need to be empowered by his Spirit. We need to be filled, again and again, so we can minister from a place of *overflow*. Take a few minutes—yes, even though you are pressed for time right now—and close your eyes and thank Jesus for his Spirit. Invite him to overflow from you, to empower you for ministry today, and to fill you with his love and joy.

STARTER

This game is a spin-off of the classic Rock, Paper, Scissors game, and loosely ties into the theme of "empowerment."

Have everyone in the group square off with someone else and do a Rock, Paper, Scissors battle. You can do best of three to take up a little more time. After the first round, the winners go on to play another winner; the

LESSON

SET UP & ENGAGE

losers have to follow the person who beat them, and cheer for them as loudly as they can. Here's the cool part: If I lost to person A, which means I'm cheering for them in their next match, and then they lose to person B, then I start cheering for person B. As the game goes on, the winners will amass larger and larger "followings." At the end you have two winners playing each other, and the whole group is cheering for either one or the other. The caveat here is if you have a smaller group eight or fewer. If that's the case, get rid of the cheering portion, and just do a couple tournaments. Do one for Rock, Paper, Scissors, and then one for Thumb Wars. Have prizes ready for the champions.

(Remember: You can use the video teachings if you want, found at vineyardyouthusa.com/resources. Or you can teach on your own from the notes below.)

Start off the lesson today by sharing a time when you have witnessed a healing. If you've never witnessed one you could maybe share a story you've heard, or ask the students if they know someone who has been healed or seen someone healed.

POINT 1

JESUS MINISTERED EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT

TEACH

I don't know about you, but I get excited about the ministry of the kingdom. I want to do the stuff! What's the secret? How did Jesus do the ministry of the kingdom?

The answer may surprise you. Let's look at these passages together:

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."
Luke 3:21-22

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.
Luke 4:1

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.
Luke 4:14

The ministry of Jesus starts with the spirit **coming upon him, filling him, leading him, and empowering him.**

Here's something you may never have thought about before: Jesus did not do this ministry out of his divinity, but as a human being empowered by the Holy Spirit (Philippians 2:5-7)

- In other words, the Holy Spirit was his power source. He wasn't using his divinity!
- This is critical because if Jesus did these things because he was God we should applaud him. If he did them as a man, it is an invitation to participation—we can and should do the same!
- Instead of him doing God things and us being amazed, he is a model to follow.
- We should consider that we are called to do the things we see him do. (John 14:12)

DISCUSS

What do you think of this idea that Jesus wasn't using his divinity when we did ministry, but was acting as a human being like us, empowered by the Holy Spirit? Have you ever heard that before? Do you think there is a difference? What is the difference and why do you think it may be significant?

POINT 2

THE SPIRIT EMPOWERS US AS WELL

TEACH

What does it look like for us to do this?

It looks like us being filled, led, and empowered by the Spirit like he was.

This is exactly what we see in the conclusion of Jesus' life. He promises to send them the Holy Spirit after he dies and is resurrected. Then he ascends and pours out the Holy Spirit on the church.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:1-4

We see the disciples being filled, led, and empowered—and then leading others to the same thing!

This is what we see continuing through much of the book of Acts. People are saved, then filled with the Spirit and empowered with the kingdom message and ministry.

It happened because they were connected into the same power source as Jesus was.

It is the invitation for us as well. We get to be filled, led and empowered by the Spirit like Jesus is.

This is available to all of us, but not everyone really takes advantage of it.

Sometimes when the Holy Spirit fills you it can be a little weird! Is it weird that God can make you feel things? A little! But it is more good than weird.

This does not have to be a one-time experience. We can be filled over and over again - the more we are filled the more we can shine his light out to others.

APPLY

Print out a prayer card ahead of time for each teen to take home with them for the week. You can put this prayer on there, or use one of your own. Encourage them to pray it each day this week, and the next week you can talk about what they sensed or experienced throughout the week.

Holy Spirit I invite you to fill me today. Even now I ask that your power and your presence would fill me. Let your Spirit overflow to the people around me today. Let me sense your presence in me and through me as you work in my life.

RESPONSE

You will probably have great ideas for response because you know your group. Our hope is that we can help you as much as possible, without getting in your way. Below are some response ideas. Use what works and throw out the rest! Our main hope is that we will make this as experiential as possible for the teens.

HOLY SPIRIT ACTIVATION & MINISTRY TIME

Take some time to pray for each other. It doesn't have to be a long time, but just spend some time praying for each other to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Get in groups of three and have two people pray for one, and then rotate. Lay your hands on each other and pray for the Spirit to come and fill them. Don't rush: Spend a little time waiting. And then if you want, you can share if you experienced anything when you were being prayed for.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① Have you ever felt the presence of God? What was it like? What were you doing?
- ② Have you ever been prayed for to be filled with the Holy Spirit? If so what happened? Did you experience anything when they prayed for you?
- ③ Is it hard or easy for you to believe that God's power can be in you like the disciples, and that God could use that power to do miracles in other people's lives?

///EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT ///

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL LIVING

EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT /// LEARNING TO FOLLOW THE SPIRIT



BIG IDEA

We can all learn to recognize and participate in what the Holy Spirit is doing.

YOUTH LEADER SOUL CARE

This lesson is about learning to see what the Father is doing. Take a couple minutes on your own and meditate on what you see the Father doing in you right now. What has he been speaking to you? Is there any encouragement he is giving you in your life or ministry? Is there any area of your life he is breathing life into? Take a moment to reflect on what the Father is doing in you, recognize it, talk to him about it, and celebrate it.

STARTER

In the spirit of learning to recognize things, let's play a game about recognition. Make two teams. Team 1 is first. Team 1 takes two minutes to look at Team 2 (lined up) and try to memorize what they look like. Then Team 1 leaves the room. Team 2 then makes one change per person—something about their outward appearance (like switch sweatshirts with someone, unzip a sweatshirt, untie a shoe, etc). Team 1 returns and gets two minutes to discuss and then write down what they think the changes are. Then you see if they are right. Next, do the same with the teams reversed. The team that guesses the most changes correctly wins.

LESSON

(Remember: You can use the video teachings if you want, found at vineyardyouthusa.com/resources. Or you can teach on your own from the notes below!)

SET UP & ENGAGE

Take a moment to ask the teens if they saw God doing anything in their lives as a result of the application from last week. Did they remember to pray? If so, what did they experience (if anything) in their week as a result of their prayers? (This is a good lead in for talking about learning to recognize what the Spirit is doing.)

POINT 1

THE MISSING LINK: DOING WHAT WE SEE THE SPIRIT DOING

TEACH

I know a lot of people who get excited about prayer and just start going for it. It's not always very effective and it can be super frustrating.

Have you ever been frustrated trying to pray for God to move supernaturally?

Leader: Maybe share a story of your own frustration.

Being led by the Spirit is a skill set we have to develop.

All people can be led by the Spirit, but it is a skill to be developed. As is true with many things in life, we need to invest some time and effort into learning how to grow in this area.

This first part of learning this is to learn to recognize what the Spirit is doing:

*Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does."
John 5:19*

Jesus teaches us a very important lesson here. Even he did not just go around doing miracles whenever he wanted to. He was looking to see what the Father was doing, and then partnering with him.

This is a key skill for us to learn. If we want to learn how to do the stuff of the kingdom we have to learn to see what the Father is doing.

Praying for people in our own power isn't likely to be very effective. Praying while following God's initiative yields great results.

We don't go wrong because we're lacking some gift; we go wrong because we don't know how to partner with the gift we've already been given. If we don't know how to recognize and follow the Spirit, we're going to miss opportunities.

I have good news: Learning to follow the Holy Spirit is a learnable skill. It's not magic pixie dust, it is something you can invest your time and energy in and learn how to partner with God.

Once we learn how to see what the Father is doing, it puts it on the table for ALL of us. It's not just for the specific few. This is for everyone to learn and participate in.

This is the calling of the church—to continue the message and ministry of the kingdom.
Everybody gets to play.

DISCUSS

How do you think Jesus knew the Father was doing something that he needed to join him in? What are some ways you can tell if the Holy Spirit is moving in a way that you should participate in?

POINT 2

UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

TEACH

This is what the Bible talks about when it refers to gifts of the Spirit.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

The Spirit is the gift to us, not the gifts. The gifts are manifestations of the Spirit. To manifest is to make something concrete, real, and visible. This is a list of the ways the Holy Spirit can show up in any given situation.

Markers Illustration

Think about a cup full of different color markers. Most of us think of gifts of the Spirit like this: You might have a blue marker (we'll call it healing) and a red marker (discernment of spirits) but that's it. You don't have yellow (miracles) so you don't think you can participate in the kingdom in that way. What if it's different than that? What if we ALL have the WHOLE CUP (which is the Holy Spirit)? And the Holy Spirit, in any given situation, takes out a marker (manifests) that is needed and offers it to you and me, and our job is to partner with him—to take the marker and use it to help someone else! They are all for all of us. Everyone gets to play!

Our job is to learn to recognize when the Spirit is showing up and learn to flow with him. This is how we do what we see him doing.

Each of us will have places where that is more natural and easy and other places where it's more difficult. It's all on the table for us all though, if we'll take it and go for it.

Most people I talk with are experiencing a whole lot more God-activity than they realize, but they just haven't learned to recognize it yet.

DISCUSS

How does this strike you? Are you excited to learn how to recognize the Spirit showing up? When you read this list of manifestations, do you feel like you've ever seen one of them?

APPLY

For this week's application time, see Holy Spirit Activation Time.

RESPONSE

You will probably have great ideas for response because you know your group. Our hope is that we can help you as much as possible, without getting in your way. Below are some response ideas. Use what works and throw out the rest. Our main hope is that we will make this as experiential as possible for the teens.

HOLY SPIRIT ACTIVATION & MINISTRY TIME

No matter what size your group, create an atmosphere where you can do some ministry. Is anyone sick or dealing with pain? Do some healing prayer. If not, break into groups of three or four and take turns praying for each person in turn. Pray for the Holy Spirit to come and minister and see what he does. There may be words that come (and depending on your group, you may need to shepherd that along and help them to be bold enough to share what's on their heart) or they may just sense the presence of God on them. Take time afterwards or during to let people share their experiences.

OUTREACH

Depending on your group's experience and gifts, you could create an outreach where you get the chance to pray for people. An easy way to do this is to think of some way to do a giveaway. You might hand out free water at a park or hot chocolate (depending on the season), and then offer to pray for people too. Sometimes people will say yes, and then you can see what happens when you invite the Holy Spirit!

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① Is it hard (or easy) for you to imagine the Holy Spirit doing supernatural ministry through you?
- ② Today we talked about how learning to recognize God moving in a situation supernaturally is a skill we can learn. Have you ever thought about it that way? How can we learn to see that?
- ③ When you read the list of gifts in 1 Corinthians 12, do any of them "jump off the page" for you and make you think maybe you'd be excited to be used in that way?

NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL LIVING

EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT /// WHAT DOES PARTNERSHIP LOOK LIKE?



BIG IDEA

Stepping into partnership with the Holy Spirit requires risk!

YOUTH LEADER SOUL CARE

Meditate on these verses for just a minute or two before you start to prep for the lesson. Ministry can be painful. There are times that no matter how hard you try, someone is upset with you or frustrated or let down. Today, remember that God (not the opinions of others) is your source and your strength. Ask him to help you find your safety and strength in him today.

MAIN VERSE

*From the ends of the earth I call to you,
I call as my heart grows faint;
lead me to the rock that is higher than I.
For you have been my refuge,
a strong tower against the foe.
Psalm 61:2-3*

STARTER

There is a little prep for this game. You'll need to go shopping and buy six or seven foods to use. Make them as fun as you want! Since we'll be talking today about recognizing how God is moving through you, we'll be doing a game about recognizing food with our eyes closed. The game is called "What am I eating?" Have teens volunteer. Pick four or five teens and have them wait out of the room. One at a time they come in and get blindfolded. You have six or seven food items that they have to take a bite of and then guess what it is. The person with the most correct guesses wins.

LESSON

(Remember: You can use the video teachings if you want, found at vineyardyouthusa.com/resources. Or you can teach on your own from the notes below.)

SET UP & ENGAGE

Last week as we prayed for each other, did any of you feel God's Spirit moving in you? What was it like? What happened?

POINT 1

STEPPING INTO PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT REQUIRES RISK

TEACH

Last week we talked about recognizing what the Spirit of God is doing. This week we will talk about taking the risk to step into partnership with him!

First let's go a little deeper on what we call "the gifts of the Spirit" found in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, which was read last week.

EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT /// WHAT DOES PARTNERSHIP LOOK LIKE?

We can separate the manifestations of the Spirit into three general categories:

Revelation: words of knowledge, words of wisdom, and discerning of spirits. These are like Holy Spirit empowered “senses.” All three can be described as the ability to PERCEIVE from the spiritual realm.

- **Wisdom**—The ability to perceive solutions and answers to problems. Some people talk about this as our “spiritual ears.”
- **Knowledge**—The ability to perceive information: The Holy Spirit whispers something in your ear you didn’t know otherwise.
- **Discerning of Spirits**—The ability to perceive spiritual activity that’s happening, like the presence of the Holy Spirit, angels, or demons. Some people think of this as our “spiritual eyes.”

How we learn to use these gifts is by beginning to recognize what’s happening inside of us. We can learn to pay attention to the input, just like paying attention to someone who is talking. We’ve all accidentally (or purposefully!) tuned someone out while they were talking, right? But we also know how to “tune in” and really listen. This is similar. There is spiritual input happening, but we need to learn to tune into it, instead of tuning it out. It could be thoughts that seem to come from nowhere. Or it could be a feeling— “something feels off about this.” Or it could be a hunch— “I just feel very convinced this is true.” Then we need to learn to take action and step out and do something with that spiritual input.

Leader: Tell a story of a time you witnessed someone be used by God in one of these ways, or you yourself were.

EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT /// WHAT DOES PARTNERSHIP LOOK LIKE?

Inspiration: prophecy, tongues, and interpretation. These three gifts have to do with speech. This is Holy Spirit empowered speaking.

- **Prophecy**—Speaking God’s heart to another person: “This is the heart of God for you.”
- **Tongues**—Speaking in another language, either another human language, or the language of angels, to pray to the Lord or to speak to other people.
- **Interpretation of Tongues**—The ability to understand what someone who is speaking in tongues is saying.

This feels a lot like the process of being inspired creatively. A lot of times it starts with a thought or word, that once you start speaking, you kind of go with the flow of inspiration that continues to come. If you’ve ever been part of a creative process like writing a story, song, or poem, or creating a piece of art, you probably know a bit about how this feels. Once you get the start of an idea, you have to start going with it, and then you can’t really explain it but inspiration and creativity and ideas just keep coming.

Leader: Tell a story of a time you witnessed someone be used by God in one of these ways, or you yourself were.

Demonstration: gifts of healing, working of miracles, and faith. These gifts are actions and activities that are empowered by God. This happens when we partner with the Holy Spirit and a God-action happens. They are often initiated in our motivations (in what we want to do) and we must learn to respond to our motivations and inclinations and do something. “I don’t know why, but I really want to go pray for that person!”

- **Gifts of Healing**—This is the God-given supernatural ability to pray for someone who is sick and see either instantaneous healing, or healing over time that isn’t explainable in another way.

EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT /// WHAT DOES PARTNERSHIP LOOK LIKE?

- **Working of Miracles**—This is the God-given supernatural ability to pray and see God do impossible things. There really is no way to list all the ways this could happen. The Bible recounts miracles of nature, raising people from the dead, moving people miraculously from one place to the other, and many, many more. Anytime that there is an impossible situation and God breaks through in a creative miraculous way as a result of our prayers is a miracle.
- **Faith**—This is more than just faith in Jesus as our savior. This is a gift that God gives to you in a specific situation where you just “know that you know that you know” that God is going to do something. You can say with total assurance, “God is going to do *this*.”

Leader: Tell a story of a time you witnessed someone be used by God in one of these ways, or you yourself were.

All of this is a learning journey.

This is not going to happen overnight. We all learn as we go. We are learning to sense and see what God is doing, and to respond to it and partner with it. All of these require being an intentional partner.

It’s amazing to see God do amazing stuff like this, but it all only happens when you (1) perceive and (2) act. That means you will have to take risks. There is no risk-free way to follow the Spirit.

Vineyardism: Faith is spelled R-I-S-K.

If we don’t step in and take the risk, it doesn’t happen. It always feels fuzzy when you start to feel led to do something, no matter how many times you’ve done it. It never feels 100 percent sure. It’s a gray area, meaning it requires faith to take a risk.

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The next step for each of us is to begin to take risks and to start wondering and then acting on thoughts like this: "Maybe that thought isn't me, maybe that's God!" "Maybe my desire to act isn't me, maybe it's God!"

The miraculous ministry of Jesus happens *as we go* and it meets us as we go.

Don't let this just be a Bible Study. Start taking risks!

This means our faith is an adventure. Adventure is God's plan; he wants us to have adventures with him.

What's your next step? Jumping in! Start trying to put this into practice in any context you can as you see what God is doing and observe this stuff as it starts to happen. If you have a prayer training at your church, participate in that and get involved. If you want to live this kingdom ministry, you can, so get moving!

DISCUSS

Is it hard for you to think about taking risks and stepping into what God is doing? Would it feel intimidating if you felt led to pray for healing for someone? Would you be able to go do that? Or to share a prophetic word with someone? Or to pray for someone? What makes it scary for you? Can you identify why it feels intimidating? Do you have any ideas about how to start overcoming that?

APPLY

This week in church or youth group, make a decision that you will actively look for what God is doing and ask him to show you a time when you can partner with him!

RESPONSE

You will probably have great ideas for response because you know your group. Our hope is that we can help you as much as possible, without getting in your way. Below are some response ideas. Use what works and throw out the rest. Our main hope is that we will make this as experiential as possible for the teens.

HOLY SPIRIT ACTIVATION

Break into groups and pray for each other. Ask what they need prayer for in this context. Do they need prayer for boldness to start taking risks? Do they need prayer to hear God's voice or sense his leading?

Another idea depending on the size of your group is to start worship and ministry time, and then invite the Holy Spirit to come into the meeting. Ask the teens to just be sensitive and to try and sense what God is doing in the room and partner with him. Do they sense him ministering to someone? If so, they should go and pray for that person.

OUTREACH

Depending on your group's experience and gifts, you could create an outreach where you get the chance to pray for people. An easy way to do this is to think of some way to do a giveaway; for instance, hand out free water (or hot chocolate, depending on the season) at a park and then offer to pray for people too. Sometimes people will say yes, and then you can see what happens when you invite the Holy Spirit.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① When we were talking through the nine spiritual gifts, did one or more of them jump out at you? Did you think, "Yeah I really think that's me—I'd love to do that!"
- ② Where in your life do you think you could start listening and watching for what God is doing so that you could partner with him?
- ③ Is it easy for you to sense God speaking to you or leading you, or is it a struggle?
- ④ What is it like, how does it feel, or how do you experience him when he leads you like this?

WELCOME TO VINEYARD YOUTH CURRICULUM

Hello friends. What you hold in your hands is the product of lots of people, lots of prayer, and lots of purpose. The Vineyard movement is at a crucial place, and we believe that the work we do with students will have much influence on what the movement will look like over the next 10-20 years. We set out to design a curriculum that communicates and reinforces the biblical and kingdom values of the Vineyard while inviting students to embrace the reality that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

Understanding the diversity within the Vineyard movement, we purposefully designed curriculum that can be utilized by groups of differing sizes led by either paid or volunteer leaders in any geographical setting or location. Easy, right? We believe we accomplish this by offering a buffet of activities that allow you – the in-the-trenches leader – to choose what works for you and your group. We're pretty sure no one will use all of the material proposed, but we're confident some of it will be a good fit for your group.

Each lesson includes:

- Experiential, hands-on activities that reflect a variety of learning styles.
- Large group questions to frame a conversation (I.E., not a lecture).
- Application suggestions to reveal and experience the kingdom of God.
- Small group questions with age and gender specific items.
- A devotional for the leader to help them grow in this area.
- Planned activities to help students hear God for themselves.

Why Empowered by the Spirit?

One of the core values of the Vineyard is "Partnering With the Holy Spirit." That is essentially what this four week course is all about. At a young age, we want our teens to begin to learn how to sense when the Spirit is moving in someone's life and calling them to partner with him. A question we ask a lot in the Vineyard is, "what is the Father doing?" This course is designed to help teens grow in their awareness of when He is working, in their confidence in God's gifts inside of them, and in their boldness to join Him in ministry to others. There is practical teaching as well as opportunities for trying out what they are learning. We think that God is going to do great things in and through your teens as you give Him space to work supernaturally in your group!

About The Author: Putty Putman



Putty started the School of Kingdom Ministry, and oversees the healing, prophetic, deliverance, and evangelism ministries at The Vineyard Church of Central Illinois. Putty was pursuing a doctoral degree in theoretical physics at the University of Illinois when God thrust him headfirst into the supernatural. After a dramatic supernatural encounter in China, Putty began to gather and train people in power ministry and pursuing an intimate relationship with God. What began with four people as a small group grew to multiple groups, then the first campus of the School of Kingdom Ministry, and now multiple locations around the world. He is a gifted communicator with a powerful message of identity.