



Part 2: Dove/Power // Jeff Brodie // March 15, 2026



When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended like a dove and everything changed. Immediately, Jesus began living and teaching with a new authority and courage. The same Spirit that empowered Jesus now empowers ordinary people. What if the power you've been looking for comes from the same place?

Scripture: [Matthew 3:16 NLT](#) // [Acts 6:1-5 NLT](#) // [Acts 8:1-23 NLT](#)

Bottom Line: The Spirit who forms you in obscurity is the Spirit who empowers you in obedience.

Don't miss the special section of questions and activities at the end of this group discussion guide that are meant to help us reflect, pray, and take simple next steps as Easter approaches.

Digging In:

Reminder: The goal is a good discussion, not completing every question. Use these as a tool to help.

1. Think about someone you respect who serves faithfully behind the scenes. What makes that kind of person stand out to you?
2. Read Matthew 3:16. Jeff traced how the Holy Spirit worked across Scripture from anointing key individuals in the Old Testament, to empowering Jesus, to filling believers in the early church. What part of that story helped you better understand the role of the Holy Spirit today?
3. Read Acts 6:1-5. Individuals described as "full of the Spirit and wisdom" were chosen to organize food for the widows. Why do you think the early church considered "ordinary" service an important place for Spirit-filled leadership? Do we do the same thing today?
4. Read Acts 8:1-23. Philip served quietly in Acts 6, but in this passage he's preaching boldly, baptizing people, performing miracles and healings, and seeing God move powerfully. What connection do you see between those two seasons of his life?
5. Jeff shared that the Spirit who forms you in obscurity is the Spirit who empowers you in obedience. Why do you think God often does his deepest work in our lives in hidden or unnoticed seasons? Have you ever experienced this reality?
6. Philip was willing to serve in obscurity, but Simon was focused on building a reputation. Where do you see that same tension today between serving quietly and faithfully, and trying to be recognized or to build a platform?

7. Simon wanted the power of the Holy Spirit apart from the lordship of Jesus. Why do you think people can sometimes be more interested in spiritual experiences than in truly surrendering their lives to Christ?
8. Jeff said that in God's kingdom, power is a tool to serve, not a platform to build. Where have you seen power used well to serve others—and where have you seen it misused?
9. Where might God be inviting you to take a small step of obedience right now, even if it feels unnoticed or ordinary? Are you willing? How so?
10. If the power of the Holy Spirit often shows up in obedience, what would it look like for you to live with "surrendered heart and obedient hands" this week?

Looking Forward:

Every day this week, pause and ask one simple prayer: *Holy Spirit, where can I give you more of myself to Jesus?* Then watch for opportunities to respond by serving humbly, offering forgiveness, being an encouragement, or stepping out in faith. Remember, the goal isn't to chase an experience—the goal is to practice daily surrender and obedience. The Holy Spirit often fills us in our obscurity and obedience.

Easter Invitation // Group Reflection & Prayer

At Connexus, we want to be the easiest church to invite our friends to. Invitation isn't about pressure or persuasion—it's about loving people well and trusting God with the results. These questions and activities are meant to help us reflect, pray, and take simple next steps in these four weeks leading up to Easter.

Week 2 // Paying Attention to the People Around Us

Reflection Questions:

- Who are one or two people God is already placing on your heart this Easter season?
- What might it look like to love or serve them well before—or even without—extending an invitation?

Group Activity:

- *Name & Pray:* Take a quiet moment to write down names or initials of people you're praying for this Easter.
- Pray together for openness, courage, and timing. Encourage group members to keep these names visible during the week as a reminder to pray.