



The Holy Spirit can be hard to understand. So when the Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible, He included self-portraits - visual portrayals of the invisible Spirit of God. Understanding these visuals - a dove, water, fire, and others - can provide insight into how God's Spirit works in and transforms Christians today.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Name someone you love to be around who lives out of state. What is it like when you're with them? How is it different than a text, call, or video chat?

2 Read **Exodus 33:15-16**. Moses couldn't get enough of God's presence (see *the rest of chapter 33 for proof*). God had already given the Israelites a specific law to live by and rituals to practice. So why does Moses claim that it's God's presence that really makes them unique from other nations?

3 Throughout the Old Testament, God dwells with his people in a mobile house (see *Exodus 40:34*) and in a stone temple (see *2 Chronicles 5:14*). Then Jesus comes to earth. Read **John 1:14** and **John 2:13-22**. How is Jesus the new Tabernacle & Temple? Why do gospel writers like Mark and Luke tell us about the Temple curtain tearing at the moment of His death? (see *Mark 15:37-38*)

4 Read **1 Corinthians 3:16** and **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**. **Nothing marks the people of God like the presence of God.** According to Paul, the gathered church and the individual Christian have become the

temple of God's Spirit. What does this mean for our church as a community? What does it mean for you as an individual?

5 Generally, Western churches fall into three groups: **1)** Theological churches (who focus on doctrine and studying God's word); **2)** Charismatic churches (who focus on encountering God by His Spirit; and **3)** Missional churches (who focus on reaching the lost for Christ). What's been your exposure to these three groups? Which area do you feel God calling you to grow in personally - study of God's Word, relating to God's Spirit, or engaging with God's mission?

6 Finish by praying that The Hills will be a people who hold to the Word of God, who rely on the power of the Spirit, and who faithfully pursue the mission God gave us to make and grow followers of Jesus.

