

Study Guide for Thy Kingdom Come Novena 2026

The theme this year for this global call to prayer is God With Us.

As you pray for your chosen five to come to faith, this guide of 11 reflections will help focus our thoughts and prayers on God's spirit changing us to be more attuned to his Spirit, more reflective of Jesus.

The questions are offered as a tool for group discussion for each reflection.

The Spirit of Promise

Think of a time when you asked God a very specific question, or voiced a desperate plea, and received a dispiriting answer. How can we be encouraged by this exchange between Jesus and his followers?

You can't give what you don't have, goes the saying. How can we encourage one another to deepen our openness to the Holy Spirit this week? How did the disciples do this?

The Spirit Broods Over Creation

Even when the universe was at its darkest, God's Spirit was there, preparing to pour out Creation as a blessing. How will this truth shape your response to dark times?

Those who are suffering often long for the comfort of a friend, or loved one. Is there someone you can be present for this week?

The Spirit of Grace

Ruth was a gentile who had also suffered loss, but she clung to her Jewish mother-in-law out of love. Her best economic hope was to stay and marry again, but devotion to a suffering woman motivated Ruth on an uncertain path. Share a time when you took a chance on God though the path was unclear.

Grace, the free offering of love without strings, is our faith's lifeblood. How has grace been shown to you? How can you in turn show grace?

The Spirit of Listening

Share a time when you experienced hearing God's voice, especially if someone helped you hear it.

Is there someone who might be open to hearing God's voice, especially if you could be their Eli? Or have you helped someone in the past be attuned to God's reaching out?

The Spirit of Confidence

Do you have difficulty complaining to God? If so, is it because our expectations are too low?

Gideon is told he has all the strength he needs, because God is sending him. Are we waiting to share the gospel until we are stronger?

The Spirit and the Whisper

Elijah is asked the same question multiple times. What is the question that haunts your thoughts, that God might be asking you multiple times?

How did Elijah know that God wasn't in the wind, or earthquake or fire? How attuned are you to God's voice – and what might He be asking you to do this week?

The Spirit and Leadership

We don't have to do this alone. The church has many gifts and many leaders. Could you help someone in their evangelism efforts? Is there someone who could help you?

Is there an example from your past where a leader made an impact on your faith?

The Spirit of Sovereignty

Jesus not only became sin for us on the cross, but entered baptism as a representative of Adam's sinful race. He emptied himself of all but love. Ultimate power is marked by humility. Can you think of other examples when the powerful became humble?

Praying for others to come to faith might be seen as some as an act of arrogance. How can we love these five with humility?

The Spirit of Evangelism

It's striking that Phillip doesn't launch right in to explanation and persuasion, but instead asks the eunuch if he understands what he is reading. He started with where the stranger already resided. What lessons are there in this for our five?

Apparently 70% of new church members came because someone in the church invited them to a service. Do we expect too much of our pastors and our programs? Would any of our five be open to an invitation?

The Spirit for all Ages

Paul is no doubt aware that his martyrdom may be at hand, and his thoughts are both longing to see a loved one, and to urge Timothy to use his gifts more urgently in serving the church. How can we fan our gifts into flame, and into service of the church and our five?

Power, love and self-discipline – are we in need of deepening these in our lives? In the lives of our five – what might that look like?

The Spirit of Promise

The gift of Pentecost reverses the curse of Babel, and promises a new united humanity, one where brothers and sisters can hear and understand one another. How can we better hear and understand our five?

How have these reflections led you to encounter God? We are unable to do this alone – and so God promises his Spirit of power and promise, and each other. Alleluia.