

Anointed by the Spirit - week 3

January 18, 2026

As you participate, remember that this is a space to listen, reflect, and grow together. There is no pressure to have the “right” answers. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide both the conversation and your heart.

Open up together:

- When you hear the word “*anointed*,” what comes to mind—emotionally or spiritually? Does it feel distant, confusing, or meaningful to you? Why?

Read the following scriptures aloud together:

Luke 4:14-19

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit of the sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has **anointed** me...

Genesis 28:18-19

Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel.

Exodus 40:9

Take anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and everything in it; consecrate it and all its furnishings, and it will be holy.

Exodus 30:30

Anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate them so they may serve me as priests.

1 Samuel 16:13

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David.

Luke 4:20-21

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Isaiah 61:6

And you will be called priests of the Lord, you will be named ministers of our God...

1 Peter 2:9-11

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Romans 7:6

But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

Reflect & Share:

Use a few of these questions to guide discussion:

- In Luke 4, Jesus says, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." What stands out to you about Jesus claiming Isaiah 61 as *His* mission?

- The message emphasized that anointing is not about status, but service. Where do you see a temptation—personally or in the church—to confuse those two?
- Isaiah 61 moves from one anointed servant to *all* God's people being called priests. What does it mean to you that you are part of the "priesthood of all believers"?
- J.I. Packer says the better question isn't "Do I have the Holy Spirit?" but "Does the Holy Spirit have me?" What do you think that shift is inviting us to examine in our lives?
- The message connected anointing with dependence, not strength. Where in your life do you tend to rely on your own ability instead of God's presence?
- The sermon said the church is meant to "ooze hope." Where do you see hope being most needed—in your own life, your relationships, or your community?
- If anointing is about joining what God is already doing, what is one area where you sense God inviting you to participate rather than perform?

Pray Together:

"Ask God to help you release control and self-reliance. Pray for openness to the Spirit's presence, and for clarity about how He is inviting you to serve—not out of pressure, but out of love and obedience."

Personal Invitation:

This week, take one small step of Spirit-led service. It could be:

- Showing compassion where you'd normally stay silent
- Offering help without needing recognition
- Pausing daily to pray, *"Holy Spirit, what are You doing, and how can I join You?"*