One of my favorite verses comes from Zechariah 4:6. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts."

Many of us become champions of our own causes. With sheer determination, we set out to do great things for the Lord. But God is not impressed by our self-driven efforts; He looks for a willing heart that is committed to obeying Him. When we walk in His will, He supplies the power through His Spirit to accomplish what He desires. No wonder so many Christians burn out—they're trying, in their own strength, to do to things God never actually asked them to do.

DAY ONE

1. This week, you'll be observing and studying Zechariah 3 and 4. You'll go through the same process you learned last week. Do you remember the steps we used to walk through the passage?

    a. Begin each day with prayer asking God to give you understanding as you observe and study the passage.

    b. Read the chapter and mark the key words.

    c. If there's a vision, you're going to sketch it—or otherwise record what you see —on "The Visions of Zechariah" pages in your Observation Worksheets.

    d. You're going to go through the process of putting the vision into your own words; first, write out the main points, and then speak the vision aloud as if you're explaining it to someone else.

    e. Check your "Zechariah at a Glance" chart and look at the theme you recorded back in week one. Are you still content with what you wrote, or now that you've studied further, do you want to revise it?

2. Read through Zechariah 3. As you do, pay close attention to the "who" of this chapter. Don't assume anything—carefully observe what each "person" is saying and doing, and record what the chapter tells you about each one, making sure to include the "Branch."

3. Add the following words to your Key Word Marking Card and mark them in the text.
   a. *Joshua*
   b. *Satan* - I use a red pitchfork
   c. *iniquity (filthy)* - I use a black broken heart the same as I mark sin

4. Last week we talked about Joshua (Jeshua) mentioned in Haggai, Ezra, and Zechariah, and I wanted to be sure that you remembered how he connects to these passages.

5. Make sure you complete all the steps back in step 1.

DAY TWO

1. Satan is the accuser of God's people. As you study, ask God to help you understand what this means as you look at Zechariah 3:1-5, and ask Him to reveal your true standing before Him. Is there anything Satan could rightly accuse you of before the Lord? How would you stand against those accusations?

2. What is Satan doing with respect to Joshua, and why? Compare Zechariah 3 with Job 1:6-12 and Revelation 12:10. What patterns do you see about Satan's role as an accuser, and what do you learn from this about his activity and God's response?

3. Why do you think the filthy garments are mentioned in connection with Joshua? To help you answer, work through the questions below.

    a. The word picture is intentionally extreme and graphic: it shows Joshua's spiritual condition as not just "a bit dirty" but utterly defiled and unfit to stand before a holy God. The Hebrew word for *filthy* in Strong's Concordance is #H6674, and it occurs only in Zechariah 3. The term points to excrement (feces) and underscores the seriousness and offensiveness of sin in God's presence, even in a high priest. He brings nothing clean or worthy of acceptance on his own; the only way for him to be fit to come into God's presence is through God's gracious cleansing and clothing. This helps us feel the weight of sin in our own lives and the amazing love that God shows as He removes those garments from Joshua (and from us) and clothes him (and us) in clean robes through His grace and justification.

b. What is done with Joshua's filthy garments, and who does it? What is given to Joshua in exchange?

c. Look at Exodus 28:3, 36-38 and note how this compares to the clean turban on Joshua's head.

d. From what you've seen so far, does it seem that Joshua himself is personally clothed in iniquity, or is this picture being used in a broader sense? Could Joshua be representing the nation of Israel or the priesthood as a whole? What did God expect from Israel? Look up the following verses and record what you learn from each.

1) Exodus 19:6

2) II Chronicles 29:3-11 - occurs in the first year of Hezekiah, a godly king

3) Isaiah 64:5-9

4. Read Zechariah 3:6-10.
   a. Who is speaking and for whom are they speaking?

   b. List the main points of the message.

   c. Let's take a closer look at the Branch. Was this a familiar term to the Jews, especially the priests? What do the following verses tell you?
      1) Isaiah 11:1-10

      2) Jeremiah 23:5-6

5. Who do you think the Branch is—and who is speaking about the Branch in Zechariah 3? Isn't it exciting to begin putting the pieces together?

6. What is the stone? The text doesn't directly tell us, apart from its description and what the Lord of hosts says He will do with it. Look up the following verses and see whether they help you understand this image.
   a. Isaiah 28:16

   b. I Peter 2:4-8

7. Let's take a look at the seven eyes. What do you learn from the following verses?
   a. II Chronicles 16:9

   b. Revelation 5:6

8. Go back and review where you marked the references to "day." What do you learn about this time? Do you see any connection between the "day" in verse 9 and the "day" in verse 10? What did you discover—what will happen, and when?

9. Read Micah 4:1-8 and notice whether it parallels, in any way, what you have seen in Zechariah so far.

10. Have you seen any personal applications from your study so far? If so, write them out below.

DAY THREE

1. Read through Zechariah 4. Make sure to mark the key words that are on your card. Also mark the following words.

   a. *trees* - and any synonyms and pronouns
   b. *Spirit* - (I mark mine with a purple dove. It's always good to mark this when you study Scripture.)
   c. Zerubbabel

2. Draw out this vision on "The Visions of Zechariah" pages.

3. Check your theme for chapter 4 on your "Zechariah at a Glance" chart. Make any changes if you want at this time.

DAY FOUR

1. You focus today will be on Zerubbabel. After you pray, read the following verses and record what you learn about him.
   a. Ezra 2:1-2

   b. Ezra 3:1-5

   c. Ezra 5:1-2

   d. Haggai 2:1-5

2. How would the vision in Zechariah 4 affect Zerubabbel and the people working on the temple? Work through the following questions to help you answer that question.
   a. What was the timing of this vision. You can figure it out by looking at the Scriptures you've studied these past two weeks.

   b. What was the status of the temple at this time? If necessary, use your timeline in the Observation Worksheets to help you answer that question.

   c. What is God's promise to Zerubbabel?

d. How is it going to happen?

e. What will make "the seven" glad?

f. According to Zechariah 4:10, what are the seven?

3. On the last page of this lesson, page 30, you'll find a chart "Timing of Events in Zechariah" to help you line up the events that took place during Zechariah's ministry. You've already seen specific time references in Zechariah 1:1, 7 and 7:1, and you'll see more in Ezra and Haggai. You'll find it helpful to record these on this chart—WRITE THESE IN PENCIL. As you write, put these events in order and leave some space in each box so you can add notes above or below later. Record the Scripture reference in the first column, the timing (day, month, year) in the second, and what happened in the third. As you continue your study, you may add more entries to this chart so you can keep all the activities aligned.

4. In Lesson 2, you learned that the Lord stirred Zerubbabel's spirit to lead the people back to Jerusalem to lay the foundation of the temple. Because of fear and pressure from their enemies, the people stopped the work. According to Haggai 1:1, the word of the Lord came through Haggai on the first day of the sixth month in the second year of Darius. This word moved Zerubbabel and Joshua to obey the Lord and resume work on the temple on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month (Haggai 1:12-15). Then another prophecy from the Lord through Haggai came on the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month (2:20). This was two months before Zechariah received his visions (Zechariah 1:7). Add these events to your "Timing of Events in Zechariah" chart.

5. Read Haggai 2:20-23 and list the main things God says to Zerubbabel, noting when these events are said to take place. Add these points to your chart if needed.

6. Let's end today by looking at Zerubbabel's genealogy. Look up Matthew 1:1, 6-12, 17 and II Samuel 7:8-16, and note what you learn about Zerubbabel. Record what you discover from these passages.

7. II Samuel was a promise by God made to David's descendants. David's throne would be established forever. A son would sit on that throne forever. But since the Babylonian captivity and the death of Zedekiah there has been no king on the throne of Judah. But God is a covenant keeping God. A son will come and His name will be Jesus the King of kings that will come and sit on His glorious throne (Matthew 25:31).

DAY FIVE

1. Let's take a look at how the visions in Zechariah 3 and Zechariah 4 relate to each other. As you compare them. Note what they reveal about God's cleansing, His empowering Spirit, and His purposes for Joshua and Zerubbabel.

   a. Who is the main person in focus in the first part of Zechariah 3 and what is his office or role?

   b. Who is the main person in focus in Zechariah 4, and according to Haggai, what is his office or role?

2. Who do you think the two anointed ones—literally, "sons of fresh oil"—are who stand before the Lord of all the earth? If you have ideas, write them down.

3. Now it's time for application and reflection. Look at the Lord's word to Zerubbabel in Zechariah 4:6—the verse quoted at the beginning of this lesson. Read the following verses and note what you learn about the Spirit of God and the believer.

   a. John 14:1-3, 16-17

   b. Acts 1:6-8

   c. Ephesians 1:13-14

   d. I Corinthians 6:19-20

4. How can this knowledge about the Spirit help you in your every day life? Write out specific ways it encourages, corrects, or strengthens you in the situations you're facing right now.

5. You can read what you commentaries have to say about Zechariah 3 and 4.

Timing of Events in Zechariah

Scripture Reference	Timing	Events