



Leader Corner

Watch the Wind

John 3:7-8

This week focuses on what it looks like to be prepared to respond to the Holy Spirit. Often, we can miss promptings, or clear signs of Holy Spirit work, because we do not allow enough space to become more attune to what he is doing in and around us. "Watch the Wind," is a mindset that shifts us toward what feels like spontaneous responses. However, when we act in obedience, we often will find that it was as much a random prompting as it was some movement of the Holy Spirit that we just became aware of. Challenge each other to lean into the idea of pivoting toward the Holy Spirit.

Main Idea: Watch the Wind - *We strategically plan yet quickly pivot as the Spirit of God leads*

Main Practice: Have an attitude of obedience toward the Holy Spirit

Main Teaching: John 3:7-8

Connect with Prayer & Praise

Read, meditate, or sing the following first verse of the hymn, "Spirit of the Living God":

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

Have someone pray for the group; that we will all be responsive to the Holy Spirit's guidance in our lives.

*Holy Spirit,
Teach me to learn, inspire me to practice, stir me to drill the ways of discipleship. . .*

*Holy Spirit,
As I learn, fill me with wisdom of heart, as I practice, flood me with intelligence, as I drill drench me with knowledge. . .*

*So that we can be ready
At any moment, in any way, with any skill. . .AMEN*

(40 Days with the Holy Spirit, Levison)

with Principle

1. Have someone read aloud John 3:7-8.
2. Discuss any insights or questions that Sunday's sermon brought to mind.
3. In this passage, two effects of the Holy Spirit are presented: 1. Being born again 2. Being affected by the Spirit (hearing the wind), that we would sense His presence and direction. We'll look at some of the ways the Spirit "rebirths" us, and how we respond as we are aware of the Holy Spirit while discussing the following questions:
4. What changes occur to our self-perception, our will, and our desires when we are born again? Helpful scriptures: Ezekiel 36:25-26, John 3:3-6, 16:7-8, Romans 5:1-5.
5. What changes in our "lived-out lives" should occur once we are born again? See Matthew 7:16-20, Galatians 5:16-24, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, Ephesians 4:1-5, 2 Timothy 1:7.
6. What are some examples of sensing and responding to "the wind"—the Holy Spirit—that you have experienced in your life, or in the lives of others. Share with your group.
7. Theologian Michael Horton states, "The Holy Spirit is the person who works within us, even to the point of indwelling us and interceding in our hearts. But the Holy Spirit is *not* our spirit and is not to be confused with our own. The Spirit is a divine person within us." How do we *know*, when we feel the wind blowing, that it is the Spirit of God and not our own or the world's influence? Discuss this in light of these scriptures: Proverbs 3:5-6, Matthew 6:33, Romans 12:2, 2 Timothy 3:16, 1 John 2:15-16.

with Practice

Look for and anticipate the wind of the Holy Spirit in your lives and respond to His push in Christ-like action. When we put to practice "Watch the Wind," we become people who obey the Holy Spirit. To truly live in community and on mission, Jesus gave us the gifts of the Holy Spirit and peace. The following is a practice (from a book Disciples Making Disciples, Part 1) that will help you **listen** to and **obey** Holy Spirit promptings. It is something you can do every day, even multiple times a day.

1. Untie the Sails (LISTEN): Being led by the Spirit starts by confessing and surrendering. Take some time to "untie the sails" in confessing any known sin and by yielding any self-serving motivations. Pray over your confessions with one another.

2. Raise the Sails (OBEY): Just like a sailboat is powered by the wind, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the following for this week:

- Who he wants you to share your story.
- Who he wants you to assist, help, or spend time intentionally connecting.

Share this with a group member and ask for accountability to follow through.

Close your gathering by praying Romans 15:13 over everyone.

for Further Study

A.W. Tozer's "tests" are quite helpful in discerning our own will versus the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Google search A.W. Tozer, "How to know when a thing is from God," also listed as "How to try the Spirits." He has seven major points. What do you think?