

***The Spirit I Never Knew – August 31 & September 1, 2019***  
**Follow-up Bible Studies**

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**Day One: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

- Set the scene of this text (1-2). Put yourself in Ezekiel's shoes – what's it like to be touched by the Holy Spirit in this way? What role does sensing his presence play in your own faith journey?
- What did the Lord ask Ezekiel (3)? What prophecy was Ezekiel called to proclaim to the bones (4-6)? The Holy Spirit manifesting as breath brings these bones back to life. What does this teach us about the Spirit's sometimes mysterious purpose and activity?
- What happened as Ezekiel prophesied (7-8)? How do you think it felt to see the prophecy fulfilled so quickly? What happened next (9-10)? What do these bones actually represent (11)? What better word does God have for his people, who feel zapped of life (11-14)? Meditate on the Lord's promise in verse 14: I will put my Spirit in you and you will live. Tell God what this means to you.

**Day Two: Matthew 3:13-17**

- Describe the setting (13). Summarize Jesus and John's interaction (14-15). What does Jesus mean by "fulfill all righteousness"? Visualize John during this exchange: what facial expressions, body language, tone of voice, etc. do you observe?
- What happened just after Jesus' baptism (16-17)? Instead of wind or breath, why did the Holy Spirit appear as a dove? Consider Genesis 8:8-12, when a dove points to new creation. Close your eyes and imagine the Spirit settling on you and speaking to your heart that you are now a new creation. How does it feel?
- What did the "voice from heaven" say (17)? God loves Jesus simply because he is his son, not because of his ministry, which hadn't even begun yet. The Father feels the same about you! Take a moment now to allow the Holy Spirit to kiss your soul with the truth that as God's child, you are his deeply loved creation.

**Day Three: John 3:1-8**

- Describe Nicodemus (1). When did he come to Jesus, and what did he say to him (2)? How did Jesus reply (3)? Why do you think he responded in this way? How did Nicodemus react to Jesus' words (4)? What do you think he was hoping to get from Jesus?
- How did Jesus elaborate on what it means to be "born again" (5-6)? How would you describe the spiritual life the Holy Spirit has birthed in to you? What experiences of the Spirit do you think of as evidence of entering the kingdom of God?
- What does Jesus claim should not surprise Nicodemus (7)? Jesus then likens the Holy Spirit to wind; in what way (8)? The Holy Spirit and even the experience of being born again are mysteries we cannot fully grasp. How does it feel to not ever be certain of where the Spirit is coming and going? In general, how comfortable are you with mystery? Speak to the Lord about this.

**Day Four: Acts 2:1-21**

- Set the scene of this text (1). What "suddenly" happened (2-4)? Note the Holy Spirit's ways of making himself known and the way he touched the believers. What is your response to these sights and sounds? What one word or phrase sums them up?
- Due to the holiday, who else was staying in Jerusalem during this time (5)? What was their reaction to the commotion, and what did they say (6-12)? Reflect on the words

used to describe the pilgrims' response: "bewilderment" and "utterly amazed." How did others react to this event (13)? When you witness something very unexpected, how do you typically respond?

- What happened next (14)? How did Peter respond to the cynics (14-16)? Summarize the prophecy from Joel (17-21). The Holy Spirit is a good gift promised to us by Jesus. Receive him now. May he empower you to prophesy, declare the wonders of God, see visions, dream dreams, etc.

#### **Day Five: Acts 16:6-10**

- What were Paul and his companions up to (6)? What was keeping them from preaching the Good News in Asia (6-7)? The Holy Spirit is here to help; one of the ways he does that is by guiding us. Why do you think he kept Paul and his team away from Asia?
- Bring to mind a decision or plan ahead of you. What guidance do you sense from the Holy Spirit? Where is he telling you to go? What is he asking you to do? Pray you'd be able to distinguish the Spirit's voice from other voices, including your own.
- Kept out of Asia, where did Paul and his team go instead (8)? During the night, what happened (9)? In response to the vision, what did everyone decide to do (10)? How do you think you would've responded to the vision? Would you have left "at once"?
- If Paul ignored the Holy Spirit's guidance and instead forced his way to Asia, what might have happened? May you heed the Spirit just as Paul did. Allow him to teach you and to guide you.