

Small Group/Sermon Notes for Vision: Spirit and Truth Part 4

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **Spirit and Truth** based on **John 4:23-24**.
- **Part 4: Embrace Worshiping in Spirit**
- So, how do we get good at worshiping in spirit? Ask and abide.
 - Having a spiritual connection with God is different from following the rules and agreeing with the right theology. Those are truth things.
- Why did Jesus come to the earth?
 - Several reasons actually. Here are some examples. What else can you think of?
 - To save people from their sins: **Matthew 1:21, 1 Timothy 1:15**.
 - To destroy the Devil's work: **1 John 3:7-8**.
 - To give live to the full: **John 10:10**.
 - To become King: **John 18:37**.
- One major reason Jesus came was to baptize in the Spirit.
 - **Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:32-33**.
 - This is a big deal considering the virgin birth only made it into Matthew and Luke and "you must be born again" is only in John!
 - This is no side doctrine. This is at the core of Christianity.
- The book of Acts picks it right up with **Acts 1:3-8**.
 - V5. Reiterates the sequence from John the Baptist to Jesus. (Now 5!)
 - V8. This is where the believer's power comes from. Discuss the following:
 - Ever feel like you lack the power to overcome? Dig into the things of the Spirit.
Romans 8:3-4.
 - Shame does not empower. It only makes us aware of our sin.
 - Instead, when we yield to the Holy Spirit rather than the sinful nature we get the victory!
- This wasn't cutesy religious talk but actual tangible experiences with God.
 - Evidence that the Gentiles were accepted by God: Peter defends ministering to the Gentiles in **Acts 11:11-18**.
 - Compare that to non-Christian Jews of the same era: **Acts 22:21-22**.
- Jesus baptized in the Holy Spirit after the ascension (so now). **John 7:37-39**.
- So we must desire the Holy Spirit and ask. Remember **Luke 11:13**.
 - What are some experiences you have had in connecting with God in a tangible way?
- Hard question: What happens when you want to go to Heaven but you prefer other spirits?
 - You've heard of a critical spirit, a religious spirit, etc. There are many.
 - Check out **2 Corinthians 11:3-4**.
 - Even **2 Timothy 1:7**.
 - Is timidity evil? Not really, but it could take God's plan for your life away!
 - The good news: you don't need to understand everything, seek the Holy Spirit and the counterfeit will show itself!
- So, Jesus came to immerse us in the Holy Spirit. If we ask God will give us the Holy Spirit. Through the Spirit we receive fruit (heart condition) and gifts (natural and super natural abilities).
 - That sounds nice! What could possibly go wrong???
 - That is why we need LOVE! More on that next week.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!