

# The Holy Spirit You Never Knew

## Week 3: *Learn!*

### Teacher's Guide

#### 1) Preparation

- a. Study the Bible
  - i. Isaiah 42:1-4
  - ii. Isaiah 50:4-6
  - iii. Luke 2:21-40
  - iv. Acts 2:1-13
- b. Carefully read *Fresh Air*
  - i. Chapter 3
  - ii. Chapter 8, pages 189-95, 204-07
- c. Read the discussion questions about these chapters at the end of *Fresh Air*.

- 2) **Class goal:** to understand how important study and learning are to a robust life in the Spirit. Put negatively, to realize that one needn't lose control to experience the Spirit or, more important, the Spirit doesn't step in *after* preparation and learning but *through* preparation and learning.

#### 3) Suggested class outline

- a. Review last week, with special emphasis upon the disciplines that opened the way for Daniel to become a poster boy for the Spirit for the long haul. (5 minutes)
- b. Simeon's song (Luke 2) (15 minutes)
  - i. Point out the three verbs that depict how Simeon experiences the Spirit in Luke 2:25-27
  - ii. Read Simeon's song (the *nunc dimittis*) carefully out loud
  - iii. Ask people where its various phrases come from (which you know are from the portrait of the servant figure in Isaiah 40-55)
  - iv. Discuss the relationship between learning and the Spirit. Perhaps ask people:
    1. When they have tended to think the Spirit would show up (e.g., in worship, at camp)
    2. Whether they can recall experiences of the Spirit that took place during a period of learning and, more generally, discipline (like Lent!)
- c. Briefly study the steps of routine maintenance in Isaiah 50—which suggest how the servant figure of Isaiah 40-55 received revelation. (10 minutes)
- d. If there is still time, discuss one more example of the importance of learning, this time where we might not expect it: on the day of Pentecost! (10 minutes)
  - i. Read out loud Acts 2:1-13
  - ii. I would suggest spending less time discussing this and, instead, teaching them three key points based upon Acts 1-2 (see *HuffPost* essay)
    1. Stay put and wait
    2. Shut up and pray
    3. Sit tight and study
  - iii. In preparation
    1. Read *Fresh Air*, 189-95, 204-07

2. Read my brief Huffington Post essay on Pentecost, “Pentecost for the Rest of Us:” [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/jack-levison/pentecost-for-the-rest-of-us\\_b\\_1540129.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/jack-levison/pentecost-for-the-rest-of-us_b_1540129.html). This gives the main points quickly and clearly.
- 4) **Suggested use of the board.** Divide the board into thirds with vertical lines. At the top of the first column, write *Simeon (Luke)*. At the top of the second, write *The Servant (Isaiah)*. At the top of the third, write *First Pentecostals (Acts)* (or something like that).
- 5) **Discussion questions.** Feel free to use the discussion questions at any time during this class.

