

# The Holy Spirit You Never Knew

## Week 2: *Thrive!*

### Teacher's Guide

#### 1) Preparation

- a. Study the Bible
  - i. Job 33:1-7
  - ii. Job 34:10-20
  - iii. Daniel 4:1-8
  - iv. Daniel 5:10-16
  - v. Daniel 6:1-5
- b. Carefully read *Fresh Air*
  - i. Chapter 1
  - ii. Chapter 2
- c. Read the discussion questions about these chapters at the end of *Fresh Air*.

#### 2) **Class goal:** to help everyone to grasp the difference between experiencing the Spirit as an irresistible force (Elihu) or a lifelong presence tied to virtue, learning, and discipline (Daniel).

#### 3) Suggested class outline

- a. Last week (5 minutes)
  - i. Review last week very concretely (not vaguely). Ask everyone what we learn about ruah (explain the word again) from
    1. Ezekiel 37
    2. Genesis 1
    3. Exodus 15
  - ii. Perhaps ask what difference knowing that spirit-breath-wind as ruah share more than divides them made in their lives last week.
- b. Introduce this week: two ways of experiencing the Spirit
  - i. Through impatience, like **siege-works**: *Elihu* (Job 32:2-5, 6-7, 8-9, 16-20; 33:4, 6). (10-15 minutes)
    1. Read the relevant texts from the book of Job.
    2. Use the material from *Fresh Air* to explain why Elihu's experience is dramatic but undesirable
    3. *Pertinent quote*: "What Elihu feels is not a soft or subtle spirituality; he feels the spirit-breath welling up from deep within, as a relentless force. The spirit is the breath that rolls over his tongue—a torrent of words that fills the void of old ignorance with his fresh, new wisdom. Yet, despite Elihu's claim to

inspiration, a quick read of his advice to Job tells us how uninspired Elihu is, how clumsily he wields the blunt-edged ax of advice” (*Fresh Air*, 51).

- ii. Through discipline, like a reservoir of **simplicity**: *Daniel* (4:8, 9, 18; 5:11-12; 6:3) (15-20 minutes)

1. Read the relevant texts from the book of Daniel
2. Use the material from *Fresh Air* to explain why Daniel’s experience is less dramatic but desirable
3. Utilize *Fresh Air*, 60-67 carefully and fully! Spend time on each of these points, or whichever you think are most important.
  - a. Eat your veggies!
  - b. Live for the long haul!
  - c. Don’t do a thing!
  - d. Let *non-Christians* tell us if we experience God’s Spirit to the full.
4. *Pertinent quote*: “Daniel did not plan and plot to climb the ladder of success by knotting himself to the coterie of handsome, hunky Israelite men whose futures were bright with promise. The lesson is clear: the Spirit-breath of God pulses in people who opt for simplicity and humility rather than ambition and acquisition, people who choose simple veggies over lavish meals and fine wines” (*Fresh Air*, 62.)

- 4) **Suggested use of the board.** Divide the board in half, with Elihu at the top of one side and Daniel at the top of the other. Record what you are teaching and what people are saying (e.g., the characteristics of each, how each experiences the Spirit-breath, what we learn to do or *not* to do from each.)

- 5) **Discussion questions.** Feel free to use the discussion questions at any time during this class.

