

The Holy Spirit: Teacher & Guide

Focus: on welcoming the guidance of the Spirit by the Word, in community.

Here is a link to a helpful article on the Spirit & guidance by J. I. Packer:

http://jameslau88.com/how_we_receive_guidance_from_the_holy_spirit.html

Here is a link that has a "hurry sickness" quiz:

<http://blog.photobiz.com/hurry-up-and-read-this>

You can have people add their own indicators of this ailment to this list!

Discussion:

- Have people share stories of times when they sensed the Holy Spirit prompting them: first from their time in the Word and then, more circumstantial promptings.
- Read Rom. 8.14. What does this imply about the guiding ministry of the Spirit in the life of every Christian? Read the broader context (8:12-17) and ask what the Spirit is leading us to according to this passage?
- What kind of things make putting our "yes" on the table as we seek God's guidance difficult? What truths about God's character help us overcome these reluctances?
- Read these examples of the Spirit's guidance from Acts: 8:29; 10:19-20; 13:2; 16:6-10. How can we know when we are truly being guided by the Spirit? What helps with this discernment?
- Which of these 5 questions is most important for you to embrace right now to help you follow the Spirit's guidance more faithfully?
 1. Is your "Yes" on the table?
 2. Where do you want to be guided to? (a life of service or luxury?)
 3. Are you running ahead of God? (see Is. 30.1)
 4. Are you regularly in the Scriptures meaningfully?
 5. Are you regularly in community meaningfully?
- discuss how your group can help each other discern the Spirit's guidance when someone is facing an important decision?
- have people share how the Spirit was prompting them through the teaching on Sunday and pray for one another!