

## Preaching in Spirit and in Truth Lesson Plan

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**Lesson Purpose:** To equip preachers to reach both the minds and the spirits of listeners

**Overview:** In a high-tech, information-loaded age, listeners interact not only with truth but also the with the Spirit. The preacher incarnates the message of the Gospel by listening to the Spirit and wrestling with the truth of the scripture in order to provide for listeners a powerful encounter with God.

**Opening:** Think about a spouse or a close friend. Describe to the group how you interact with that person's mind. Then describe how you interact with that person's spirit.

**Scripture Reading:** People don't always recognize physical thirst, sometimes instead of drinking, they eat or shop or indulge in other addictions. Often people who listen to sermons have not come actively asking a drink from Jesus. This woman in this scripture recognized her physical thirst. But, even more important, Jesus helped her understand her spiritual thirst. Read John 2:1-26.

**Mini Lecture:** *Preaching in Spirit and in Truth*—Distribute the note taking sheet and show the mini lecture: *Preaching in Spirit and in Truth*.

### Exercises:

#### Exercise 1: Your Bent

- Think about which of these statements better describes your natural tendency:
  - a. I gravitate toward searching out the truths of the Scriptures.
  - b. I gravitate toward searching out the things of the Spirit.
- Explain to the class what you enjoy about this natural tendency.
- Discuss as a class how to cultivate what is not your natural tendency.

#### Exercise 2: Back Then and Now

- Spend a few moments scanning the book of Philemon.
- Discuss as a class the following two questions in regard to that book:
  - a. What was the intended message for the original recipients of Philemon?
  - b. What is the application for our time?

#### Exercise 3: Jars of Clay

- Think of one evidence that shows you are a cracked jar of clay.
- Share this evidence with the group.
- Discuss as a group specifically how you can use your cracks to show the all-surpassing power of God (in a way that angels cannot).

#### Exercise 4: Your Sermon Committee

- Imagine you are to choose an imaginary committee from your church to help you answer the question: *Why does this sermon need to be preached?*
- Make a list of six diverse people in your church who could help you think about this.
- Choose a few verses that have been meaningful to you lately. Pray about those verses in regard to these six people, listening for what might be God's message to them from these verses. Take notes as you listen to God.
- Share the results with the class.