





## Scriptures

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

—Psalm 139:23–24

2e. Again you are reminded that this community was divinely called into being. The spirit of the Restoration is not locked in one moment of time, but is instead the call to every generation to witness to essential truths in its own language and form. Let the Spirit breathe.

3a. Do not be discouraged. You have not been promised an easy path, but you have been assured that the Spirit that calls you will also accompany you. b. That Spirit is even now touching alive the souls of those who feel the passion of discipleship burning deeply within. Many others will respond if you are persistent in your witness and diligent in your mission to the world.

5c. Listen together to one another, without judgment or predisposition. Do not assume that the answers to matters of conflict have yet been perceived. There is much labor to be done. Reason together in love, and the Spirit of truth will prevail.

—Doctrine and Covenants  
162:2e–3b, 5c

## Worship Planning

During the gathering several scriptures will be shared and amplified. The central scripture focus for the week includes Psalm 139: 23–24, and Doctrine and Covenants 162:2e–3b, 5c. The scripture text is provided in the column on the left.

This section of the resource provides assistance in planning worship for “Let the Spirit...” These materials include suggestions for the following:

1. An opening community worship
2. Theme-based and spiritual-discipline-based worship services
3. A baptismal service
4. A commitment service
5. Sharing services and vignettes
6. Campfire resources

Each of these sections is self-contained and can be distributed to the person responsible for that part of the program. For gatherings that desire to include a Daily Prayer for Peace in the schedule, a page containing information on the form and purpose of the daily ten-minute Temple service and copies of the exact services being presented on the days of the gathering are available on the World Church Web page two weeks in advance. This can be found on the Internet at [www.CofChrist.org](http://www.CofChrist.org).

## General Suggestions

The worship services are planned to be multigenerational. Children and young people are vital to our worship, and opportunities to involve them in giving ministry during the services are encouraged. The emphasis on spiritual practices may bring both an opportunity to engage in spiritual practices and to model with children and youth the importance of the practices. While there are challenges to including children in worship and the spiritual disciplines, there are also blessings. The presence of children in worship is an expression of the living out of scripture found in Matthew 19:13–15 adapted:

Then children were brought to Jesus so that he may lay his hands on them and pray. However, the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” And after laying his hands on them and praying for them, he departed.

The worship service is an opportunity to bring children to Jesus Christ. Consider incorporating ideas from the education resources into the worship services. Children and adults who participate in the service should know exactly what they are to do, and rehearse if necessary.



## Worship Planning<sub>continued</sub>

- “Breathe on Me” by Lucy Fisher  
(Integrity Music)
- “Come, Holy Spirit” by Lorelee Thiessen
- “Lord, Reign in Me” by Brenton Brown  
(Music Service)
- “Blessed Be Your Name” by Beth Redman  
and Matt Redman (EMI)
- “Breathe” by Marie Barnett  
(Music Service)
- “More of Your Glory” by Bruce Haynes and  
Lindell Cooley (Integrity)
- “Come, Holy Spirit” by Gloria Gaither and  
William Gaither (Gaither)
- “Holy Spirit, Come” by Geoff Bullock  
(Maranatha)
- “Let Your Spirit Fall Here” by Ed Kerr  
(Integrity)

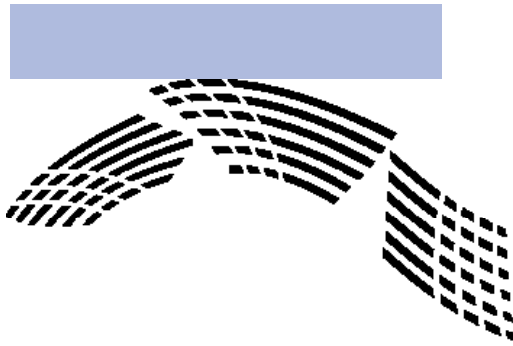
Hymn selections have been included from *Hymns of the Saints (HS)*, *Sing for Peace (SP)*, *Sing a New Song (NS)*, and *By Request: Songs for the Community of Christ (R)*. Make arrangements to have copies of these books available for the gathering. If necessary, ask congregations to loan copies.

At the beginning of each worship, have about fifteen minutes of singing encompassing different genres of religious music. Select songs from the church hymnals and other Christian music that would appeal to all generations. When selecting music, make certain that words reflect current theological understandings. A diversity of instrumentation is advised. Many people in the mission (or congregation) play musical instruments. Encourage participants to bring those instruments with them, and schedule their use when possible. The use of overhead projection or other technologies to display the music can make it easy for all to participate. In the event the music is copied or projected, please make sure that the music has been used with permission. For additional styles of songs appropriate for the gathering music, the song titles in the box (see left) are offered as suggestions. They are available in a variety of formats.

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Spiritual disciplines will be the emphasis of the gathering. The book *Soul Tending* published by Abingdon Press, refers to spiritual disciplines, Christian practices, means of grace, and practices of the faith to refer to life-forming practices that make us more like Christ. Life-forming practices include ordinary actions and human attempts at being holy. These practices are exercises of mutuality where God transforms us into the likeness of Christ, becoming closer to the person that God desires us to be. Several spiritual disciplines will be explored this week. More instruction of these practices will be shared in individual worship sections.

- |                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Mindful eating                    | 5. Walking slowly in nature |
| 2. Exercise of gratitude             | 6. Deeper listening         |
| 3. Centering prayer or breath prayer | 7. <i>Lectio divina</i>     |
| 4. Prayer of <i>examen</i>           |                             |



# Let the Spirit In— Opening Community Worship

## Order of Worship/Inviting the Spirit

Section 162 of the Doctrine and Covenants beckons us to invite the Spirit to be an active participant in our lives.

*Again you are reminded that this community was divinely called into being. The spirit of the Restoration is not locked in one moment of time, but is instead the call to every generation to witness to essential truths in its own language and form. Let the Spirit breathe. Do not be discouraged. You have not been promised an easy path, but you have been assured that the Spirit that calls you will also accompany you. That Spirit is even now touching alive the souls of those who feel the passion of discipleship burning deeply within. Many others will respond if you are persistent in your witness and diligent in your mission to the world.* —Doctrine and Covenants 162:2e–3b

### Worship Setting

Before the start of activities create a worship center focused on some elements of spirituality. This could include symbols or images representing air, wind, breath, smoke, or fire. Physical expressions could include an altar, dove, clay, fountain, frankincense, harp, and manna. Incense may be used as a symbol for spirit, being sensitive to those that may have respiratory issues or allergies.

### Songs for Praise and Gathering

Attempt to use songs that will appeal to all ages. A mix that is mindful of the generations that are present will assist in creating a community atmosphere. The singing of songs is for many a spiritual exercise. It is an expression of gratitude to and communion with God. Have someone, or a group of people familiar with the music, passionately lead the singing.

### Suggested Songs

Sovereign and Transforming Grace	HS 12
Thou Whose Purpose Is to Kindle	HS 111
Oh, for a Closer Walk with God	HS 117
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	HS 170
Come, O Creator Spirit	HS 283
O Holy Dove of God Descending	HS 285
Gather Your Children	SP 3
Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song	SP 11
As the Deer	NS 2
As We Gather	NS 3
Come, Holy Spirit, Come	NS 6
Companions on the Journey	NS 7
Meet Me in a Holy Place	NS 36

At this gathering the use of spiritual disciplines will assist in understanding and experiencing what it means to allow the Spirit to move. Marjorie Thompson, in the book *Soul Feast*, defines spiritual disciplines as simply practices that train us in faithfulness. These disciplines will require active participation. We experience the Spirit's movement and we are made new.

It is hoped that prayerful and intentional attention will be given to the activities during the week so that persons may experience a closer walk with God. As you participate, you may be challenged, stretched, and comforted by experiencing God in new and diverse ways. Spiritual disciplines are matched with each theme: (1) Let the Spirit Teach, (2) Let the Spirit Bless, (3) Let the Spirit Speak, (4) Let the Spirit Heal, and (5) Let the Spirit Breathe.

Hymn: "As We Gather"

NS 6

Prayer of Invitation of the Holy Spirit

Scripture Reading: Psalm 139:23–24

Doctrine and Covenants 162:2e–3b, 5c

We Come Together Sharing Our Understandings of the Holy Spirit  
Group Activities

*These activities are intended to be intergenerational and assist in amplifying the theme. Supplies needed are noted. Review the rules before you begin: (1) Remember safety; (2) have fun; (3) build relationships, get to know one another; (4) if someone is alone, don't hesitate to get him or her involved in the activity.*



# Let the Spirit In— Opening Community Worship

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## Order of Worship/Inviting the Spirit—continued

### Planning Notes



Activity: The Wind and the Flame

*Materials needed: Newsprint, markers, tape, fans, candles, torches.*

*Hymns of the Saints 214, “There’s a Spirit in the Air” expresses the Spirit moving among us. Spirit is often referred to as a mighty wind or the presence of flames. On the newsprint provided, use the markers to illustrate images of wind and fire. At the conclusion of the activity place the newsprint in front creating additional worship settings. The use of candles or torches may also assist in creating an atmosphere symbolizing the spirit. Also the placement of fans to blow on the images constructed can give movement to the setting. Be advised—don’t try both!*

Activity: My God Is So Big

*Materials Needed: Newsprint, markers, crayons, colored chalk, tape, Play Doh.*

*The idea of the Holy Spirit is an extremely abstract concept for children. Children understand more concretely and think in terms of a God personage rather than the Holy Spirit. Ask: What does God look like? Everyone should be encouraged to participate. Using either the newsprint or Play Doh, create an image of how you see God. At the conclusion give participants the opportunity to share their impressions.*

Activity: Where Is God and the Holy Spirit?

*Divide into small groups and talk about where you think God or the Holy Spirit is? Be sensitive to all levels of understanding and theology.*

Letting the Spirit In...

In a brief talk, affirm the importance of each person and their individual understanding of the Holy Spirit. Through participating in the spiritual disciplines together, we will explore a closer relationship with God and others.

Introduce the camp staff and discuss expectations/rules.

A Song of a Sought After Relationship:

“Oh, for a Closer Walk with God”

HS 117

Prayer for Our Time Together

# LET THE SPIRIT ... TEACH

## Session 1

### Awareness

#### Worship Setting

Before the start of the service create a worship center focused on elements of spirituality. This could include symbols or images representing air, wind, breath, smoke, and fire. Physical expressions could include an altar, dove, clay, fountain, frankincense, harp, or manna. Incense may be used as a symbol for spirit, being sensitive to those that may have respiratory issues or allergies. On this day add images of nature, church, and everyday life to the setting. These may also be projected images if technology is available. The use of sounds can also make us aware of the surroundings. Use an array of sounds from nature, industry, and church. These are available on various CDs as well as downloadable free from the Internet (make sure such use is available). A simple search of “sound” can provide many options.

#### Centering Thoughts

The fifteenth chapter of John begins with Jesus using the metaphor of him being the vine and his Father the vinegrower. Jesus teaches us to abide in him and to bear good fruit. The twelfth verse is a fundamental teaching of our faith, “Love one another as I have loved you.” The entirety of the fifteenth chapter of John is a call to awareness, with the culmination that we are to be aware that Jesus is the vine, and we will bear good fruit when we love. We will be aware of the hatred in the world and testify of Jesus’ love. We will be aware that the future holds promise because of the return of an advocate and comforter. The Spirit does teach and calls us to lives of awareness, involvement, and love.

#### Order of Worship

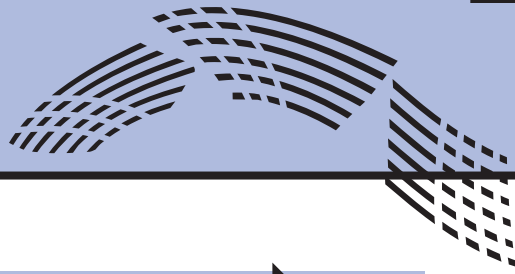
Songs of the Spirit of Teaching:

“Teach Me, God, to Wonder”	HS 176
“Lord, Help Me to Know Your Presence”	NS 31
“Softening My Heart”	NS 47

Call to Worship/Called into Awareness

*Have the people identify sounds and write them on a piece of paper. Collect and place in a basket to be used at a later time in the service.*

## Planning Notes



# LET THE SPIRIT ... TEACH

## Planning Notes

### Scripture Reading

*I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*  
—John 16:12–14

### Hymn of Invitation:

“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

HS 181

### Prayer of Invitation

### An Exercise of Awareness

*Play eight to ten quick video images or sound clips (obtain copyright permission), suggesting to the congregation that they will see or hear them only once. Afterward have them gather into groups of no more than eight and attempt to identify in order (and write down) what the visual or audio clues included. Collect these papers and put into the basket for later use.*

Hymn of Petition: “Open My Eyes, O Lord”

HS 454

### Focus Moment

*Share the story of God Created. At the conclusion have the children share what their favorite part of the story was. Encourage them to go and share the story in their own words with another person.*

### Words of Affirmation/Spoken Word

*See Centering Thoughts. Focus on the concept of awareness, teachings of Jesus, and using our senses as tools for awareness (on previous page).*

### Disciples’ Generous Response

An Illustration of Awareness: “Wisdom,” (see end of service.)

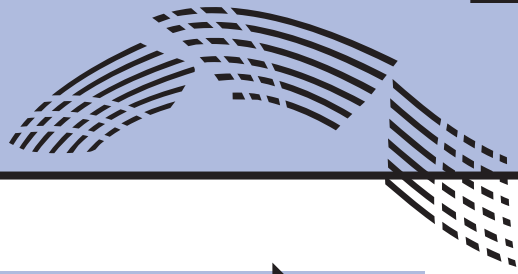
*At the conclusion of the vignette, display the items used for awareness exercises. While the offering is received, have papers turned in and burned in a container. Explain that this is symbolic of the Spirit and is another image for us to be aware of as we engage in a life of discipleship.*

### Sending Forth Hymn:

“The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning”

HS 33

### Prayer of Benediction



# LET THE SPIRIT ... TEACH

## Planning Notes

### Wisdom

*(scene: registration table near exit)*

TWO: *(enters carrying stack of books, crosses to table at far exit)*

ONE: *(enters at registration table)* Good morning. Welcome to the seminar.

TWO: Good morning. Thank you. Do you have a registration for Elizabeth Templeton?

ONE: Let me check. *(digs through box)* No. I'm sorry, you won't be allowed to take this seminar.

TWO: I won't?

ONE: No, I'm sorry.

TWO: But, I preregistered. They said that if I preregistered, I would be guaranteed a seat in the seminar.

ONE: Let me check your previous registrations. *(digs in box, pulls out a wad of fan-folded paper or a long roll of paper, let's it unfurl to the ground)* Well, I see you've taken quite a number of seminars and Bible studies!

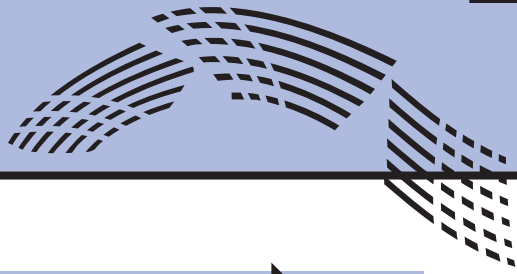
TWO: Yes, I have. I've taken virtually every course and seminar and Bible study ever offered. In fact, once I complete this seminar, I will have taken them all. So, what's the problem?

ONE: *(taps paper)* The problem is that you've been excluded.

TWO: Excluded?! You can't exclude me! This is the very last course available. I need this course. How can I say I've taken all the courses if I can't take this course?

ONE: That's why you've been excluded.

TWO: I don't understand.



# LET THE SPIRIT ... TEACH

## Planning Notes

ONE: You're being excluded because, in spite of all the knowledge you've accumulated, you don't know the difference between knowledge and wisdom.

TWO: Knowledge and wisdom are the same thing.

ONE: I'm sorry, that's where you're wrong. The Bible says that fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

TWO: I know that verse. That's from Psalm 111:10 and Proverbs 9:10.

ONE: I see that you have memorized a lot of scripture verses.

TWO: Yes, I have. I've memorized 305 scripture verses so far.

ONE: Good. Can you recite the rest of Psalm 111:10?

TWO: Certainly. (*robotically*) Psalm 111:10—The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

ONE: Do you know what that means?

TWO: Know what WHAT means?

ONE: That verse? Psalm 111:10. Do you know what it means?

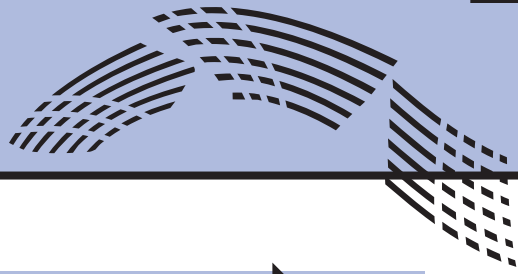
TWO: Well, of course I know what it means! I memorized it, didn't I?! It means (*robotically*) "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding."

ONE: And do you follow his precepts?

TWO: Well, sure!

ONE: His precepts tell you to give to the poor. Do you give to the poor?

TWO: I've been very busy studying.



# LET THE SPIRIT ... TEACH

## Planning Notes

ONE: Are you patient, kind, and gentle with those you love?

TWO: I've been very busy studying.

ONE: Tell me something. Why would the Lord want to give you anymore knowledge, when the knowledge he's already given you has done no good whatsoever?

TWO: Well, I wouldn't say that my knowledge has done no good whatsoever. I've done some good.

ONE: Can you give me an example?

TWO: Alright. I haven't done any good. Please let me take this seminar, then as soon as I'm done, I promise I'll start doing good. I promise!

ONE: Well, if you insist, here's the course material. (*offers sheet of paper*)

TWO: (*takes paper, reads, turns paper over*) This is it?! This is the entire seminar?

ONE: That's it.

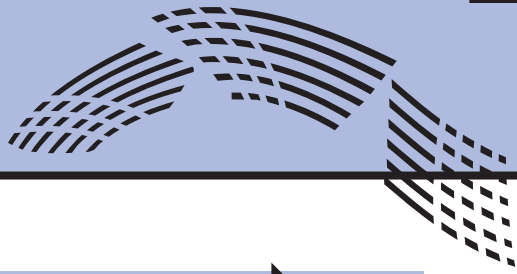
TWO: But this is just one sentence! This can't be all there is to the course! This whole thing is a hoax! You don't really work for the people who put on the seminar! I'm going in! (*exits, reenters*) There's nobody in there. Was the class cancelled?

ONE: Did you happen to read what was written on the board?

TWO: Yes. It was the same sentence that was written on this paper. This is really... (*reads*) Oh.

ONE: What's the matter?

TWO: (*reads page*) This is... (*reads page*) This is... Well, isn't that something?! It says. (*reads page*) "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." All these years I've been chasing knowledge as if it was some kind of trophy.



# LET THE SPIRIT ... TEACH

## Planning Notes

ONE: What's wrong with that?

TWO: I've been so busy trying to IMPRESS people that I have failed to SERVE people.

ONE: What's wrong with that? (*exits quietly when Two turns away*)

TWO: (*turns away*) It's short-sighted. That's what's wrong with it. I'm not going to get any rewards in Heaven for IMPRESSING people. Oh, wow, after spending all that time in class, I've been neglecting half of my homework. It looks like I've got a lot of apologizing to do. (*turns*) Thanks for the seminar. (*turns 360*) Where did she go? (*exits*) Oh, wow! What a great seminar that was.

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# LET THE SPIRIT ... BLESS

## Session 2



### Generosity, Endowment

#### Worship Setting

Before the start of the service create a worship center focused on elements of spirituality. This could include symbols or images representing air, wind, breath, smoke, and fire. Physical expressions could include an altar, dove, clay, fountain, frankincense, harp, or manna. Incense may be used as a symbol for spirit, being sensitive to those that may have respiratory issues or allergies. On this day add a cornucopia that symbolizes abundance. Share the story *Mrs. Rose's Garden*.



#### Planning Notes

#### Centering Thoughts

Acts 2:1–4 tells the story of Pentecost. On that day the disciples were blessed with the endowment of the Holy Spirit. The conclusion of Acts 2 affirms that others also were blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and out of their gratitude and generosity, they desired to be together and to share all things in common. Their response was an exercise of gratitude and generosity. The gift of the Holy Spirit provided the catalyst for the followers to share of their abundance in recognition of their many blessings. How can we be aware of the blessings of the Spirit in a way that causes us to respond with an exercise of generosity—much in the same way that Mrs. Rose shared her garden? To be blessed is a call to share the blessings of God's grace and love.

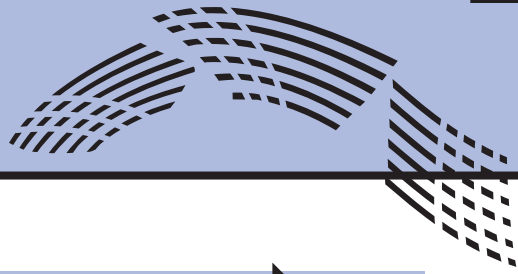
#### Order of Worship

Songs of Affirmed Blessings:

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”	NS 45
“I Have Called You by Your Name”	R 10
“Of All the Spirit's Gifts to Me”	SP 12

#### Call to Worship

*You have been given the principles of generosity, rightly interpreted for a new time. These principles call every disciple to tithe faithfully in accordance with means and capacity. Those values, deeply rooted in the Restoration faith, affirm that stewardship and discipleship cannot be divided and are dependent upon each other.*  
—Doctrine and Covenants 162:7c



# LET THE SPIRIT ... BLESS

## Planning Notes



Song of Invitation:

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

HS 31

Prayer of Invitation

An Illustration of Gratitude: “Problems” (See end of service.)

A Song of Thanksgiving: “For the Fruits of All Creation”

HS 73

Words of Affirmation/Spoken Word

*See Centering Thoughts. Focus on the concept of blessing and response; the Pentecost moment found in Acts 2 can direct the development of the message.*

Focus Moment: *Mrs. Rose’s Garden*

*Share the story of Mrs. Rose’s Garden. At the conclusion have each children plant a flower in two pots. They are to keep one and share the other with another person during the exercise of gratitude.*

Exercise of Gratitude

*To learn the grammar and practice of gratitude, practice saying “thank you” for happy and challenging experiences, for people, animals, objects, art, memories, dreams. Then have a few minutes of silence for people to pray to God for things and people they are thankful for. At the conclusion ask people to share the practice and grammar of gratitude with each other by going to others and expressing their thanks for the blessings of life.*

Disciples’ Generous Response

*The first principle of the Disciples’ Generous Response is “A disciple practices generosity as a spiritual discipline in response to Christ’s ministry.”*

*All things unto me are spiritual, and not at any time have I given unto you a law which was temporal.* —Doctrine and Covenants 28:9a

Song of Sending Forth: “The Lord Bless You and Keep You” HS 483

Benediction/Sending Forth

*Continue your journey, O people of the Restoration. You have been blessed thus far but there is so much yet to see, so much yet to do. Go forth with confidence and live prophetically as a people who have been loved, and who now courageously choose to love others in the name of the One you serve. Amen.*

—Doctrine and Covenants 162:8c



# LET THE SPIRIT ... BLESS

## Planning Notes



## Problems

ONE: (*enters*) I hate my life! Nothing is going right. I went to a half dozen different stores today and couldn't find a decent pair of shoes. Then, my car ran out of gas. And when I pulled out my cell phone, the battery was dead. So, I went into the convenience store on the corner, but the cashier wouldn't give me change for a twenty.

TWO: (*follows, carrying a box full of letters*) Oh, that reminds me. Here's your mail.

ONE: My mail. That's all MY mail?

TWO: Yes. (*offers*)

ONE: ALL my mail?

TWO: Yes.

ONE: There must be a thousand letters in there. (*examines a few*) Hey! They've all got my name on them.

TWO: Yes. I said it's your mail.

ONE: What's going on? I don't get this much mail in a whole year.

TWO: I ran an ad on the Internet.

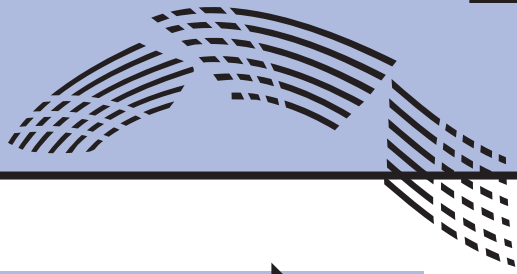
ONE: The Internet? You ran an ad? And I get mail?

TWO: Yes. The ad read, "My roommate is one of the most ungrateful people I know. She has more problems than any three people I know. Would any of you like to have her problems?" And—then I listed your problems.

ONE: So, what are the letters for?

TWO: These are people who would love to have your problems.

ONE: I don't get it.



# LET THE SPIRIT ... BLESS

## Planning Notes

TWO: Read one of the letters. (*pulls letter from box*)

ONE: (*opens, reads*) To whom it may concern. I would love to have your problem of not being able to find new shoes. My family and I have no money. So we are all barefoot. We would love to be able to wear your old shoes. (*looks at envelope*) Who is this from? Bangladesh! Is this for real?

TWO: Isn't it amazing; people would love to have the problem of not being able to find new shoes. Here, read another.

ONE: (*opens, reads*) To whom it may concern. I would love to have the problem of running out of gas occasionally. Our nation is in civil war. Our village hasn't had any gasoline for many months. (*looks at envelope*) These letters are from all over the world.

TWO: Yes. Here, read another.

ONE: (*opens, reads*) To whom it may concern. I would love to have the problem of running out of gas. I am an itinerant missionary. I travel thirty miles between villages on foot. I would be grateful to have a car to make these trips, even if I ran out of gas occasionally. (*looks at envelope*) This is for real, isn't it?

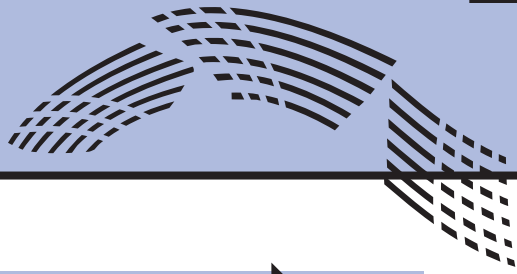
TWO: Yes. Here, read another.

ONE: Do I have to?

TWO: Yes. It will be good for you.

ONE: (*opens, reads*) To whom it may concern. I would love to have the problem of dead batteries on my cell phone. At least I would have SOME telephone service. My village in the mountains of Guatemala has no phone service at all. I must travel fifty miles to a city with phone **service and internet connections**.

TWO: Yes. Here, read another.



# LET THE SPIRIT ... BLESS

## Planning Notes



ONE: (*opens, reads*) To whom it may concern. I would love to have your problem of not having change for a twenty dollar bill. I have been out of work for three months, and my family is starving. Twenty dollars would put food on my table for a week. (*looks at envelope*) Alright, you've made your point. I am an ungrateful slob. God has blessed my life incredibly compared to these people. Compared to them, I have nothing to complain about. I never really thought of it before, but the world would love to have my problems. I never ever thought I would be thankful to have such small problems.

TWO: Good for you. (*exiting*) Say, you got change for a twenty?

ONE: (*follows*) Very Funny.

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# LET THE SPIRIT ... SPEAK

## Session 3

### Discernment



### Worship Setting

Before the start of the service create a worship center focused on elements of spirituality. This could include symbols or images representing air, wind, breath, smoke, and fire. Physical expressions could include an altar, dove, clay, fountain, frankincense, harp, or manna. Incense may be used as a symbol for spirit, being sensitive to those that may have respiratory issues or allergies. Add pieces to the setting that are symbols for communication: such items could include a microphone, megaphone, cups and string, computer, MP3 player, cell phone, Bible, Communion set, consecrated oil.

### Centering Thoughts

The first chapter of Acts is a brief overview of the promise of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' ascension into heaven, and the activities of the disciples after Jesus ascended. The fourteenth verse indicates that certain disciples and some followers constantly devoted themselves to prayer. They had been promised a comforter and had witnessed Jesus ascending to heaven; thus they committed their lives to prayer. They were witnesses of the life of Jesus and the promise of the Holy Spirit. They were actively engaged in praying to God and listening for the voice of God. During this service there will be moments when all will be challenged to listen and respond to the voice of God.

### Order of Worship

Hymns of Attentiveness and Listening:

“Lord, Speak to Me”

*HS 412*

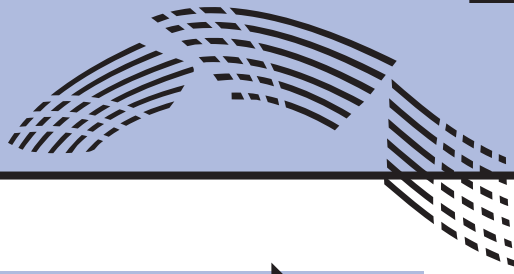
“Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me”

*HS 284*

“Listen”

*NS 30*

## Planning Notes



# LET THE SPIRIT ... SPEAK

## Planning Notes

### Call to Worship

*Listen, O people of the Restoration—you who would become a prophetic people, embodying in your life together the ministries of the Temple. Listen to the Voice that speaks from beyond the farthest hills, from the infinite heavens above, and the vast seas below. Listen to the Voice that echoes across the eons of time and yet speaks anew in this moment. Listen to the Voice, for it cannot be stilled, and it calls you once again to the great and marvelous work of building the peaceable kingdom, even Zion, on behalf of the One whose name you claim. Listen carefully to your own journey as a people, for it is a sacred journey and it has taught you many things you must know for the journey yet to come. Listen to its teachings and discover anew its principles. Do not yearn for times that are past, but recognize that you have been given a foundation of faithful service, even as you build a foundation for what is yet to be.* —Doctrine and Covenants 162:1a–2b

### Hymn of Invitation:

“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”

HS 227

### Invocation

#### An Exercise of Prayerful Focus

*The spiritual practice experience at this service will focus on centering prayer. This type of prayer usually requires twenty minutes. Given the needs of the community and the varied needs of the generations, this exercise will be modified to five minutes. Centering prayer was developed by the Reverend Thomas Keating a Trappist monk. In centering prayer, you sit in silence for twenty minutes twice a day (for our purposes, shortening to an experience of five minutes). One word is repeated that involves a sense of peace and draws one into inner silence. The repetition of the word is a reminder to focus on silence and on God. The word also is a symbol of intent to be open to God.*

Hymn of Prayerful Focus: “Jesus, Remember Me”

NS 26

#### Focus Moment

*Share the story in Everyday Angels. Focus on how some people believe that angels are communicators for God: they guide us, comfort us, and protect us. Have a brief discussion and ask questions from the children about their belief in angels.*

### Hymn of Affirmation:

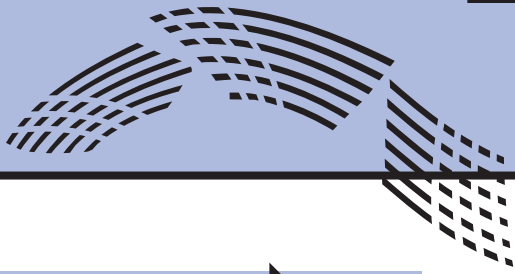
“In Nature’s Voice We Hear You, Lord”

HS 441

An Illustration of Listening: “Quiet” (See end of service.)

#### Words of Affirmation/Spoken Word

*See Centering Thoughts. Look at the different ways that the Spirit speaks to us. Use the example of centering prayer and the focus moment as resources to amplify the thoughts.*



# LET THE SPIRIT ... SPEAK

## Planning Notes



### Disciples' Generous Response

*While listening for and discerning the Spirit, we will hear God's call to us to be giving people—to give and share so others may learn and to reach out so others may be lifted up. How is the still, small voice encouraging you to be a cheerful giver?*

### Hymn of Sending Forth:

“Great and Marvelous Are Thy Works”

HS 48

### Benediction



# LET THE SPIRIT ... SPEAK

## Planning Notes



### Quiet

*(scene: park bench or three chairs side-by-side facing audience)*

ONE: *(enters carrying Bible and headphones with large ear cups, and headphone plug in pocket. Crosses to bench, sits, puts on headphones, takes a deep breath, closes eyes)*

TWO: *(enters, crosses to bench)* Hi. *(sits)*

ONE: *(opens eyes, smiles, nods, closes eyes)*

TWO: What are you listening to?

ONE: *(eyes closed)* Nothing.

TWO: Oh, come on. You can tell me. *(pause)* Well? What is it? Is it one of those dirty songs from that British singer with the woman's name?

ONE: No. It's nothing.

TWO: *(pause)* Well, if you think I'm going to sit here all afternoon and guess what you're listening to, think again. *(pause)* You know that's really annoying!

ONE: *(pulls one earpiece away from ear)* Excuse me?

TWO: Why won't you tell me what you're listening to?

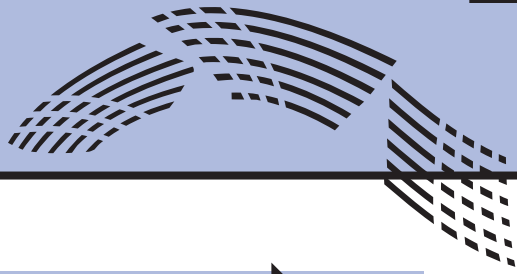
ONE: I told you. It's nothing. *(resumes closed-eye listening)*

TWO: You must think I'm pretty stupid. You sit all alone here in the middle of the park wearing headphones and I'm supposed to believe there's nothing going on? What are you up to?

ONE: *(pulls one earpiece away from ear)* Excuse me?

TWO: You're up to something. I know it. *(slides next to One)* Let me listen. *(pulls one earpiece away from One's head, puts ear near)* I can't hear anything.

ONE: That's what I've been trying to tell...



# LET THE SPIRIT ... SPEAK

## Planning Notes

TWO: ...I know what you're doing. (*removing headphones from One's head, and putting them on self*) You've got the volume turned down low so no one will overhear what you're listening to. (*pause, puts hands on both earpieces, pushes*) I still don't hear anything.

ONE: That's what I've been trying to tell...

TWO: ...I know what you did. You turned it off when you saw me coming. (*pulls headphone plug from One's pocket, dangles plug in front of own face*) It's not plugged in.

ONE: That's what I've been trying to tell...

TWO: ...(*removes headphones*) Alright, what did you do with the walkman?

ONE: I don't have a Walkman.

TWO: A radio, then.

ONE: I don't have a radio.

TWO: Portable TV.

ONE: I don't have a portable TV.

TWO: CD.

ONE: I don't have a CD. (*stands, lifts arms, pirouettes*) Look, no Walkman, no radio, no portable TV, no CD.

TWO: What are you up to?

ONE: I'm not up to...

TWO: ...You're up to something, I know it.

ONE: I'm doing my quiet time.

TWO: Your what?



# LET THE SPIRIT ... SPEAK



## Planning Notes

ONE: My quiet time.

TWO: What is that, some kind of a code word? a conspiracy?

ONE: No. About once a month, more often if I can, I come out here to the park to get away from the constant noise of TVs, radios, CDs, stereos, telephones... and well-meaning friends.

TWO: And you WANT to listen to... NOTHING?!

ONE: Yes. After I quiet my mind for a few minutes, (*holds up Bible*) I read a passage or two in the Bible and sit silently and let the words find an application in my life.

TWO: That's what you do every day during your daily devotions.

ONE: That's right. But out here in the park I get to be alone with the Lord all afternoon. And because it's unhurried and I don't have the pressures of the day weighing upon me, I usually come away with an insight into my life or a useful idea that I wouldn't get during my daily devotions.

TWO: It can't be that simple. You're up to something. I know it.

ONE: (*takes headphones*) Listen, while you sit here and figure it out, I'll just find a quiet place in the park. (*exits putting on headphones*)

TWO: (*follows, snaps fingers*) I know what you're doing! You're eavesdropping on somebody's conversation. Yeah, that's it! Nobody just sits and listens to nothing.

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# LET THE SPIRIT ... HEAL

## 4 Session

### RELATIONSHIPS



#### Worship Setting

Before the start of the service create a worship center focused on elements of spirituality. This could include symbols or images representing air, wind, breath, smoke, and fire. Physical expressions could include an altar, dove, clay, fountain, frankincense, harp, or manna. Incense may be used as a symbol for spirit, being sensitive to those that may have respiratory issues or allergies. On this day add symbols that resemble healing: such as a first-aid kit, crutches, IV bottle, Band-Aids, etc. Also add blocks that are symbolic of the story used in the Focus Moment.

#### Centering Thoughts

Acts 3:1–10 tells the story of Peter and John healing a lame man. Today's theme development could easily focus on this physical healing, but instead is intended to be an exploration of how the Spirit heals us all as individuals when we are called to wholeness. The story in Acts is about a man that was lame from birth and the miraculous healing that occurred. What follows is the community's recognition of the lame man's affirmation of the miracle and their amazement of his healing and restoration. The Spirit is available to make us whole, and we need to be intentional about allowing that. The act of letting the Spirit touch us allows us to be in relationship with others that need the ministry of healing and reconciliation that is available. Healing as a holistic approach must be one that looks not just at the physical but also the mental and spiritual.

#### Order of Worship

Hymns of Healing:

“Help Us Accept Each Other”	HS 171
“Now Sing to Our God”	NS 40
“God of Grace and God of Laughter”	SP 10

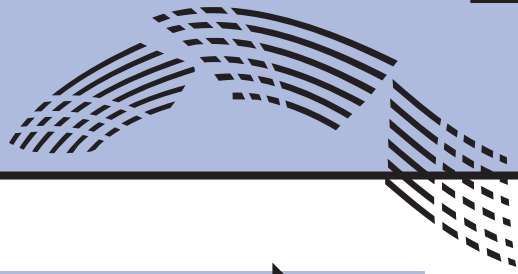
Call to Worship

*Do not be defined by the things that separate you but by the things that unite you in Jesus Christ. Over and over again you have been counseled to be reconciled, to seek the unity that is imperative to the building of the kingdom. Again the Spirit counsels*



## Planning Notes





# LET THE SPIRIT ... HEAL

## Planning Notes

*the church to not allow the forces of division to divert you from your witness. Listen together to one another, without judgment or predisposition. Do not assume that the answers to matters of conflict have yet been perceived. There is much labor to be done. Reason together in love, and the Spirit of truth will prevail.*

—Doctrine and Covenants 162: 5a–c

Song of Invitation: “Lay Your Hands”

NS 27

### Invocation

Focus Moment: *Now One Foot, Now the Other*

*Share the story of Now One Foot, Now the Other; at the conclusion give each child two blocks. They are to keep one and share the other with another person.*

A Song of Healing: “Heal Me, Hands of Jesus”

SP 33

An Illustration of Healing: “Sickness” (See end of service.)

### Words of Affirmation/Spoken Word

*See Centering Thoughts. Focus on the concept of healing and restoration and relationships. The story in Acts 3:1–10 can direct the development of the message.*

### Spiritual Discipline/Lectio Divina

*Lectio divina is an ancient Christian practice that involves contemplative praying of the scriptures, enabling the Bible to become a means of unifying with God. In this exercise the Acts 3 scripture of the lame man will be explored through reading, meditating, and prayer. Instruct the congregants to relax, get comfortable, and focus on the words of the scripture. The lectio or reading of the scripture should be slow and purposeful to allow persons to hear God speak through the scriptures. Next ask each person to ponder the words for the meaning that they have for each individual. Allow sufficient quiet time to allow for meditation (do not fear the silence, but instead embrace it).*

Song of Thanksgiving: “Mourning into Dancing”

NS 39

### Disciples’ Generous Response

*And again I exhort you, my brethren, that ye deny not the gifts of God, for they are many; and they come from the same God. —Moroni 10:8 AV*

Song of Sending Forth: “Bear Each Other’s Burden’s”

HS 369

### Benediction/Sending Forth



# LET THE SPIRIT ... HEAL

## Planning Notes

### Sickness

*(scene: six chairs side-by-side facing audience, one with magazine)*

*(actor enters backward)*

I'm really sick. Can't I see him right away?

Alright. I'll sit and wait.

*(sits, picks up magazine, pages)*

*(to audience)* I hate going to the doctor! Even when you have an appointment, you have to wait... and wait... and wait...

*(pages)*

About the only things that are good in the doctor's office are the magazines.

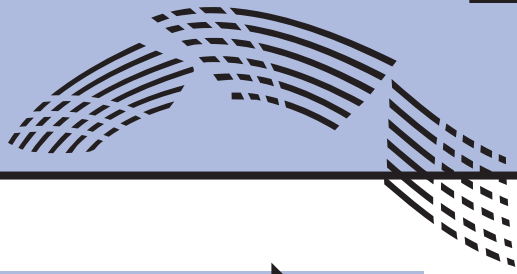
*(offers magazine to audience, sneezes into magazine, cringes, shudders, closes magazine as if it's a radioactive hazard, drops magazine on chair, moves to next chair)*

On the other hand, maybe not even the magazines are all that attractive. But the magazines are a treat compared with the other things in the doctor's office.

The first thing they do when they call your name is to make you step on a scale and remind you how much weight you've gained since your last visit. They strip you bare and embarrass you, they poke you, they prod you, they squeeze you. They ask you all these embarrassing questions about things you would never discuss in public. They act like it's your own fault you got sick. Then, of course, they poke holes in your skin and draw blood. And they do all that BEFORE they find anything wrong with you!

After you go through all the pain and embarrassment, sometimes they tell you *(mimics)* "there's nothing we can do. The disease just has to run its course."

But if they do have a treatment for your illness, then, of course, there's more pain. They poke holes in your skin to give you an injection... or two... *(holds arm in pain)* that is, if you're lucky. Sometimes the injection requires a larger muscle. I don't even want to think about the pain and embarrassment of that! *(holds bottom)*



# LET THE SPIRIT ... HEAL

## Planning Notes



Sometimes the cure involves the pain of surgery, where the pain of recovery is even worse than the pain of the disease.

So, you see why I always put off coming to the doctor's office until I'm so miserable that I can't stand it anymore.

Now, why am I telling you all this? Because, for me, spiritual healing is just like a visit to the doctor's office.

I wait until the pain is absolutely unbearable before I admit I need healing. Then, once I admit I need help, it seems like God takes forever to deal with it. Once I deal with it, he asks me embarrassing questions that I would never talk about in public. I have to poke around in painful places and painful memories, and all I get for the pain is a diagnosis.

And after all the pain and embarrassment of diagnosis, sometimes God tells me the sickness just has to run its course. Sometimes the cure takes days, weeks, even months. Sometimes God even tells me that I'll have to live with the pain for the rest of my life.

Sometimes surgery is required, and sometimes the surgery leaves a deformity or a handicap. Sometimes the pain of the cure is worse than the pain of the illness.

But once I've experienced the pain of the cure, I tell myself, I'll never let myself go through that again. Yeah, right.

*(looks offstage, points to self)*

Me?

*(stands, points to exit, exiting)*

Well, that's me. The pain begins. But that's what it takes to start the healing.

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# LET THE SPIRIT ... BREATHE

## Session 5

### Daily Life

#### Worship Setting

Before the start of the service create a worship center focused on elements of spirituality. This could include symbols or images representing air, wind, breath, smoke, and fire. Physical expressions could include an altar, dove, clay, fountain, frankincense, harp, or manna. Incense may be used as a symbol for spirit, being sensitive to those that may have respiratory issues or allergies. Add elements from daily life as well as a pair of dancing shoes.

#### Centering Thoughts

In the pursuit of finding a spiritual home we are often challenged to evaluate our daily lives. Often we fail to look for the Spirit to dwell with us in common everyday life. But that is where the Spirit abides—in our every moment, in our joys and sorrows. The Spirit as suggested in Psalm 139 is the presence that is with us, no matter what. Our challenge is to relax and take time to breathe in the Spirit. In the end we will find our spiritual home by allowing the Spirit to breathe.

#### Order of Worship

Hymns of Life:

“The Love of God”	HS 107
“Breath on Me, Breath of God”	HS 179
“Touch Me, Lord, with Thy Spirit Eternal”	HS 409

#### Call to Worship

*Again you are reminded that this community was divinely called into being. The spirit of the Restoration is not locked in one moment of time, but is instead the call to every generation to witness to essential truths in its own language and form. Let the Spirit breathe. —Doctrine and Covenants 162: 2e*

Hymn of Invitation: “Come Down, O Love Divine” HS 289

#### Exercise of a Prayer-filled Life (Prayer of Examen)

*Everyday life is a mixture of pleasant experiences and painful experiences. How we ap-*

### Planning Notes



# LET THE SPIRIT ... BREATHE

## Planning Notes



*proach those experiences in prayer and our invitation to let the Spirit breathe is a measure of how we deal with everyday life. Saint Ignatius suggested that we be taught the examen, a daily examination of our deepest feelings and desires. This prayer involves our feelings and consolations (what connects us with God) and desolations (what disconnects us). Ignatius believed that God would speak to us through those feelings and desires. For the next several minutes we will engage in the prayer of examen. The first step is be prayerful of the things for which you are most grateful; for this portion of the prayer breathe in the gratitude you felt for those pleasant events of the day and receive life again from those moments. The second step is to ask God to bring to your awareness the moment today for which you are least grateful. Ask yourself the specifics that made that moment difficult. Take deep breaths and let God's love fill you just as you are. The final step is to give thanks for whatever you have experienced. If possible, at the conclusion of the prayer, share these thoughts with a friend.*

### Ministry of Music: "I Hope You Dance"

*by Mark D. Sanders and Tia Sillers (as performed and recorded by Lee Ann Womack)*

### Focus Moment

*Share the story I Hope You Dance. Ask the children what their hopes and dreams are. What do they want God to help them with?*

### Words of Affirmation/Spoken Word

*See Centering Thoughts. Focus on the aspects of everyday life and the invitation of the Spirit to be in our lives.*

### Hymn of Commitment: "Take the Path of the Disciple"

R 19

### Disciples' Generous Response

*Everyday life is full of opportunities to dance or to sit on the side and watch. Is our giving similar to the dance of life? Is your giving an expression of participating in active stewardship by giving time, talent, and treasure? or are you just watching? If you are accepting the challenge to Let the Spirit Breathe, you in turn are also accepting a life-changing approach to discipleship and stewardship. So, will you sit or dance?*

### Hymn of Sending Forth: "Go, My Children"

SP 44



# BAPTISMAL SERVICE

## Planning Notes

## Order of Worship

### Setting and Materials

*Provide dove shapes for persons to write affirmations for the candidates. Also, using a banner with the candidates' names can be a wonderful keepsake for persons to sign to designate that they were there on that special date.*

### Call to Worship

Matthew 3:13–17 NRSV

### Song of Invitation: “O Holy Dove of God Descending”

HS 285

### Prayers of Invocation and Friendship

*Request prior to the service that several persons be prepared to offer prayers of welcome and friendship. Try to have children participate.*

### Focusing Thoughts

*Center on the scripture of Jesus' baptism and our need to be baptized. At the conclusion pass out the doves to the congregation.*

### Hymn of Commitment: “Open My Eyes, O Lord”

HS 454

### Affirmations

*Ask for community members to make short statements affirming their willingness to help the candidate(s) on their journey and to be available to them.*

### The Sacrament of Baptism

### Hymn of Sending Forth: “Now Sing to Our God”

NS 40

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

### Sending Forth: A Banner Moment

*Present banners to the candidates for the community members to write notes of affirmation and welcome.*



# COMMITMENT SERVICE

## Planning Notes

## Order of Worship

Prelude

Gathering Hymn: “Come, Holy Spirit, Come”

NS 6

Call To Worship

*“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?” —John 14:1-2*

Hymn: “The Love of God”

HS 107

Observations of Awareness

*Have people share how they have been made aware of the Holy Spirit and how they will share the testimony with others.*

Hymn of Challenge: “Here I Am, Lord” (verse 1)

NS 12

Observations of Blessing

*Have people share how they have been made aware of the blessings of the Holy Spirit and how they will share the testimony with others.*

Hymn of Challenge: “Here I Am, Lord” (verse 2)

NS 12

Observations of Listening

*Have people share how they have been made aware of the Holy Spirit through listening and how they will share the testimony with others.*

Hymn of Challenge: “Here I Am, Lord” (verse 3)

NS 12

Observation of Healing

*Have people share how they have been made aware of healings and restored relationships through the Holy Spirit and how they will share the testimony with others.*

Hymn: “The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning”

HS 33

Observations of the Breath of New Life

*Have people share how they have been made new through the Holy Spirit and how they will share the testimony with others.*

Prayer of Blessing



# SHARING SERVICES AND VIGNETTES

## Planning Notes

### Introduction

The Spirit of God is a mystery; the Spirit can teach, bless, heal, speak, and even breathe life into us if we are open and attuned to the Spirit. The sharing service provides the opportunity to share joys, sorrows, blessings, and prayers in an environment where many have felt the Spirit move.

People come with different needs, wants, and desires, but most important is that they come. Some come seeking moments with the master and a need to feel the Spirit move in their lives. All come with different ideas of how the Spirit lives, moves, and breathes in their life.

They also come with different understandings of the spiritual nature of the kingdom of God. For some, spirituality will be defined by moments of separation and silence. For others, spirituality is defined by being engaged in sacred community, with the presence of noise and exuberance being the cornerstone of spirituality.

The challenge of the sharing service is to allow for the divergent approaches to spirituality and the different needs of the generations. The sharing service includes time to share in song, prayer, testimony, and spiritual disciplines. All persons should be encouraged to participate regardless of age. The Christian education teachers may encourage children to share.

A suggested order of worship for the services:

1. Gathering and meditative music
2. Short vignette to introduce the theme
3. Welcome and opening hymn
4. Opening prayer
5. Theme talk/spiritual practice focus for the day
6. Seasons of prayer/testimony (hymns interspersed)
7. Closing hymn
8. Sending forth/prayer



# SHARING SERVICES AND VIGNETTES

## Planning Notes

### SESSION 1: LET THE SPIRIT... TEACH

In our pursuit of a spiritual home we will by necessity have to pay attention: to detail, organizing our lives, relearning some old paradigms, and being taught new lessons or practices. This exercise of paying attention will assist us in becoming aware that the Spirit is always in our midst. In our midst it helps us explore what a spiritual home will be for us individually and as community. Paying attention to the Spirit in our midst helps us to reclaim the words of the 139th Psalm. It also assists us in embracing contemporary scripture found in Doctrine and Covenants 162. In our pursuit of the teachings of the Spirit's presence and our desire for a spiritual home, it is a scripture that requests that God searches our hearts while we in turn search also and become ware of the presence of the Spirit in our lives.

#### Scriptures:

Doctrine and Covenants 162:2b, 5c

Psalm 139

John 15:26–27

John 16:12–14

II Nephi 14:4–12

#### Questions to Consider:

*When have you been aware of the Spirit's presence?*

*What is the Spirit teaching you?*

*Is the Spirit nudging you to go teach others? Who?*

#### Spiritual Practice:

*Provide a list of some suggested things to observe by going on a nature walk. This list could include flora, fauna, sounds, scents—the list is endless. Suggest that participants take time to take a walk that day and to be aware of God's creation and beauty.*

#### Hymn Suggestions:

HS 282, 288, 346, 406, 487

SP 4, 16

NS 47

SP



## Session 1 Vignette

“Here I Am”

Setting: Campsite

Characters: Two

ONE: It's sure nice to be out here in the elements. Nature all around. The smell of clean air...

TWO: I suppose so—that is, if you're a mountain man, or just like to get bit by bugs, be scared of bears, and sleep on the hard ground.

ONE: Sounds like you're not having a good time.

TWO: You think? What was your first clue?

ONE: I guess when you suggested we go camping at the Ramada, have a great steak dinner, and then follow that with a massage.

TWO: You knew I didn't want to go camping. But yet you twisted my arm, I agreed, and now it looks like the sky is clouding up and we may get a storm. The likes of which we haven't seen since Noah and the Ark.

ONE: My, but you can get dramatic. Listen, let's just try to get through the night, and we'll see how things are tomorrow.

TWO: Sure, like I have a choice.

ONE: Oh, come on! I promise, everything will be fine.

*(noise of crackling leaves)*

ONE: Did you hear that?

TWO: The leaves crackling. Something is out there! Probably a bear! or worse, Bigfoot!

ONE: And why wouldn't they bother us?

TWO: I don't think they eat chickens.

ONE: You calling me a chicken?



TWO: No

*(Leaves crackle)*

ONE: Don't tell me you didn't hear that?

TWO: Okay, I won't. I did hear it, but we are out here in the forest camping. There are going to be noises. The wind is going to blow. You just get used to it.

ONE: You make it sound easy. So how do you get used to it?

TWO: Okay, but you have to do everything I say. Understand?

ONE: Again, like I have a choice.

TWO: Promise?

ONE: Promise!

TWO: Okay, first look at the sky. What do you see?

ONE: Stars

TWO: Is that all?

ONE: Well there are some clouds. I can see the moon a little bit, but that's about all.

TWO: But look closely. See where the campsite is and look at the sky. Tonight be aware that this is the ceiling of our room.

ONE: I think I would prefer the textured ceiling of the Ramada.

TWO: Right... anyway, now just start looking all around you. What do you see?

ONE: Well, there's a big tree over there; the river is down there; the hiking trail is off to the left and will take us to the mountains.

TWO: Great job! Now smell. What do you smell?

ONE: Well, there's the campfire it smells like it might rain; and I think I smell flowers of some sort.



TWO: Wonderful! Okay, now think about it like this: the sky is the ceiling, around us are rooms with different trees and bushes, and the smells are like none we find at home. But for right now this is home. So get comfortable.

ONE: That did help a little bit, but you know what? I think I'll sleep by the fire. I think that will make me more comfortable.

TWO: You bet! But remember it's going to rain and I hear Bigfoot is sorta drawn to fire.

ONE: Funny guy! Good night.



# SHARING SERVICES AND VIGNETTES

## Planning Notes

### SESSION 2: LET THE SPIRIT... BLESS

We often look to old canonical texts to derive examples of blessings and endowments of the Spirit. Perhaps in our pursuit of a spiritual home we should utilize the old paradigms with new vigor, with new anticipation. Looking to the past as an example, how does the Spirit bless or endow our lives in our time? Are we a searching people longing for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit? Or are we a people that have become comfortable in our view of the Acts moment of Pentecost, and thus no longer seeking our own Pentecost experience? The pursuit of a spiritual home carries with it the challenge of embracing and discovering our own Pentecostal moments. Will it involve a still small voice, mighty wind, or tongues of fire? or music, graphics, or video? The reality is that our personal spiritual home will appear much different than our church home. A great deal is dependent on our own personal faith journey. How do we respond to the blessings of the Spirit in our midst?

#### Scriptures:

Doctrine and Covenants 162: 7c, 8c  
John 15:26–27  
Acts 1:8, 2:1–4 (Pentecost)  
IV Nephi 1:2–4

#### Questions to Consider:

*How have you felt the blessing of the Spirit?  
Can you describe a Pentecostal moment?  
How do you respond to the blessings of the Spirit?  
Have you shared that testimony of blessings with others?*

#### Spiritual Practice:

*Thanksgiving can be offered other than on holidays. Today's practice is really quite simple and is two part: the first is to be attentive to others and thank them for the blessings they provide to you; the second part is to thank God with gratitude throughout the day for the beauty and richness of creation, the gift of the Spirit, and the joys and sorrows in our lives. In other words, in all things be thankful. Can you think of any other things to be thankful for?*

#### Hymn Suggestions:

HS 10, 78, 8, 395, 430, 432  
SP 9  
NS 45



## Session 2 Vignette

“The Morning After”

Setting: Campsite

Characters: Two

TWO: So, how did you sleep?

ONE: Not too bad. Once I got this big rock out from under my sleeping bag.

TWO: Great! Well let's have some breakfast and then we'll go off on a hike.

ONE: Super! So what's for breakfast?

TWO: Oh my! You are new to this camping thing aren't you?

ONE: Yeah, but what's your point?

TWO: Well, when you camp, breakfast is sort of a process. I mean you just can't open a box of cereal, pour it into a bowl, and then add milk.

ONE: I don't see why not. And by the way they have a great continental breakfast at the Ramada. I'm sure they are still serving.

TWO: Right... listen, like I said breakfast is a process. It goes like this. First we have to find some wood and replenish the fire.

ONE: Can't we just fast?

TWO: No! Now listen, we need wood to get the fire going. Then we need to get out the grate and put it over the fire so we have a platform to cook on. Then we need to prepare the eggs, the biscuits, and the sausage.

ONE: I still think cereal...bowl...milk, sounds like a much easier process.

TWO: Maybe, but this sort of gives us a way to count our blessings.

ONE: Oh, you're going to have to explain this.



TWO: OK, this could take awhile.

ONE: Like I'm going anywhere.

TWO: When we go to get wood, we get to walk in God's creation. By walking around we get to look and touch and see what God has provided. Then when we start to build the fire, we can be thankful that we have the knowledge and ability to build a fire. When we prepare the food, we can again be thankful that it has been provided for us to cook. So there's the blessing of creation, knowledge, and food.

ONE: I see what you mean. Guess we need to gather wood.

TWO: Yup. You go that way and I'll go over there.

ONE: Shouldn't we stay together?

TWO: Why?

ONE: Bigfoot.

TWO: Oh, don't worry he's probably at the Ramada for the continental breakfast.

ONE: Funny.

*(both exit)*



# SHARING SERVICES AND VIGNETTES

## Planning Notes

### SESSION 3: LET THE SPIRIT... SPEAK

The still small voice, a rushing wind, tongues of fire—the Spirit acts and responds in an infinitely diverse number of ways. In our pursuit and discovery of a spiritual home our attention to Spirit will affect how we respond or discern the Spirit. Many homes have a doorbell to allow visitors to indicate their presence to the resident. So too does the Spirit (metaphorically speaking). How is the Spirit calling out to you to let you know it wants to reside in your very being? Discerning the action of the Spirit enables the further pursuit and reality of the building of a spiritual home. The Spirit speaks continuously; the challenge in our everyday lives is to filter out the noise and demands that are there and to affirm and listen to the Voice that speaks from beyond the farthest hills, from the infinite heavens above, and the vast seas below (Doctrine and Covenants 162: 1a).

#### Scriptures:

Acts 1:14, 2:42, 10:1–48

III Nephi 5:4–8

Moroni 10:4–8

Doctrine and Covenants 162:1a–b, 2c

#### Questions to Consider:

*How have you discerned the Spirit speaking to you?*

*How have you shared the testimony of the Spirit?*

*With whom do you feel called to share?*

#### Spiritual Practice:

*Review the worship service for the third day. It contains an explanation of a centering prayer. Explain it to the group and if time permits do it as a group activity.*

#### Hymn Suggestions:

HS 36, 48, 281, 463

NS 12, 36



## Session 3 Vignette

“Noise”

Setting: Campsite

Characters: Two

ONE: Man, am I tired! I didn't sleep a wink last night.

TWO: Really! I slept like a log, and you really were sawing logs.

ONE: Well, I don't feel like I got much sleep.

TWO: Why not?

ONE: Noise!

TWO: What noise?

ONE: Oh, first there were the crickets with their incessant chirping. Then there were those coyotes with their howling. And then to top things off there was this rooster that's obviously oblivious to the time of day—that crowed all night.

TWO: So that kept you up?

ONE: Yeah, I hadn't realized how loud it was out here.

TWO: Let me guess, they don't have that at the Ramada.

ONE: Exactly. I know if I don't get more sleep, I'm going to turn into a bear.

TWO: That could be ugly.

ONE: I'm serious, I don't know what I'm going to do.

TWO: Well, it's a sure bet the animals aren't going to keep quiet. And there's also the possibility you might be keeping them up with all your snoring.

ONE: So what am I going to do?



TWO: One thing that couldn't hurt is to sleep on your belly. That might keep you from snoring. Then maybe the animals could get some sleep!

ONE: Big help you are.

TWO: Hey, I'm trying.

ONE: So what about the noise of the animals?

TWO: I guess they'll just keep making noise.

ONE: That's all you've got? They'll just keep making noise!

TWO: No, there's a few more things. Remember how we counted blessings yesterday at breakfast?

ONE: Sure, but I'm not thinking loud crickets, loud coyotes, and an impolite rooster are blessings.

TWO: I figured that, so let me offer this. All of those things are a blessing of creation.

ONE: Go on.

TWO: Maybe if you thought of them that way, rather than just inconvenient noises, you might be able to sleep better.

ONE: I don't know...

TWO: Okay, try this: since they are part of God's creation, maybe the noises they make is God's way of speaking to you.

ONE: That makes sense, but maybe God could tone it down a bit.

TWO: Maybe God already did. It could be louder!

ONE: Yeah, it could. Well, I guess it's time for the breakfast process.

TWO: Yup, but because of your lack of sleep, let's try it your way—the cereal, the bowl, the milk.

ONE: Thanks a lot; sometimes you bowl me over.

TWO: Ugh. *(both exit)*



# SHARING SERVICES AND VIGNETTES

## Planning Notes

### SESSION 4: LET THE SPIRIT... HEAL

There are houses and there are homes. A house is often viewed as a physical structure where one lives. A home, on the other hand, carries imagery and the foundations of living as a family. Whether the home consists of a nuclear family, an extended family, a single person, or friends and acquaintances that share a house, a home is a place where relationships can be developed, and lived out. These close relationships can be the best and also the worst at times. In these relationships, people see how present and aware we are, how well we listen, how we judge, and how we live out our discipleship. In finding a spiritual home, letting the Spirit heal allows us to be in relationship and assists us in being attentive to the ministry of healing and reconciliation that is available. Pursuing a spiritual home allows us to be agents of change—a healing and reconciling people. In being touched by the Spirit we are often healed; it is by God's grace that we then are able to care for and assist others in the healing ministry of the Spirit.

#### Scriptures:

Luke 4:18–19

Isaiah 58:6, 61:1–2a

Moroni 10:10–13

Acts 3:1–10

Doctrine and Covenants 162:5a–c

#### Questions to Consider:

*How has the Spirit helped you to repair a damaged relationship?*

*Are there situations or persons that you find hard to forgive or reconcile with?*

*With whom are you called to be reconciled?*

*How can you share the reconciling message of the Spirit with others?*

#### Spiritual Practice:

*Review the worship service for the fourth day. It contains an explanation of *lectio divina*. Explain it to the group and if time permits, do as a group activity.*

#### Hymn Suggestions:

HS 1, 112, 147, 459

NS 27

SP 33

R 5



## Session 4 Vignette

“Old Milk”

Setting: Campsite

Characters: Two

TWO: Ugh. Next time we stick with my breakfast plan.

ONE: What do you mean?

TWO: I’m not feeling real well.

ONE: And that’s because of my breakfast process?

TWO: I think so. I was really excited about breakfast until...

ONE: Until what?

TWO: I started pouring the milk, and it looked kind of funny. Then it smelled even funnier. But I wanted to be nice so I used it on my cereal.

ONE: You think the milk was bad, and your feeling bad is all my fault.

TWO: You don’t miss a thing, do you?

ONE: I’m sorry you’re not feeling well, but hey—I ate the same thing and I don’t feel bad! So I don’t know why you’re taking it out on me.

TWO: The milk was expired. You brought it! Don’t you ever read the expiration date?

ONE: Sure, sometimes. But then again I guess it’s pretty obvious that *you* don’t.

TWO: I thought it was safe to assume that since you brought it, it would be OK.

ONE: Sorry. I made a mistake. Can you forgive me?

TWO: I guess, just really wish that I didn’t feel so bad.

ONE: You know, maybe an antacid would help. It could calm your stomach down a bit.



TWO: That would be great! Got any?

ONE: No. Just thought maybe it would help.

TWO: Thanks. You not only bring old milk, you offer an antacid you don't have. Can you offer anymore help?

ONE: If you mean can I cure or heal your discomfort—no. What I can do is be present with you as you struggle with whatever is bothering you.

TWO: You think that will help?

ONE: Well, it won't help, or heal, but it's what I can do.

TWO: You know, you really amaze me. And you really are a pretty good friend.

ONE: I try, but sometimes I fall really short.

TWO: Oh, we all do. But you've just reminded me that there is always the promise of the Holy Spirit and the Spirit promises to always be available. The Spirit also always promises to heal. Our struggle is to not get wrapped up in the human concept of healing as cure. The Spirit promises to be present.

ONE: You're not comparing me to the Holy Spirit, are you?

TWO: Only in the way you have said you would stay with me until I feel better. But I think you really have cried over spilled milk a little too much.

TWO: Oh, now who thinks they're funny?

*(both exit)*



# SHARING SERVICES AND VIGNETTES

## Planning Notes

### SESSION 5: LET THE SPIRIT... BREATHE

“Just breathe.” It’s a comment made to someone when they’ve had the wind knocked out of them. Life has a way of knocking us down, causing us trials, and creating stress—in a way it knocks the life out of us. If we let the Spirit breathe, we allow the Spirit to fill us anew, giving us hope and purpose. Letting the Spirit breathe is a way for us to reclaim abundant living and live in the promise of the Comforter.

#### Scriptures:

John 20:22–23

Acts 2:38–39

Doctrine and Covenants 162:2e

#### Questions to Consider:

*How will you allow the Spirit to breathe in your life when you return home?*

*What are the struggles of daily living that get in the way of allowing the Spirit to breathe?*

*With whom do you feel called to share the reality of the Spirit?*

#### Spiritual Practice:

*Review the worship service for the fifth day it contains an explanation of a prayer of examen. Explain it to the group, and if time permits do as a group activity.*

#### Hymn Suggestions:

HS 33, 214, 309, 466

SP 44

R 19



## Session 5 Vignette

“Breathe”

Setting: Campsite

Characters: Two

ONE: I can't believe it's time to leave. We've only been here three days, and it seems like... a week.

TWO: I know, I didn't really think you would make it through the first night. You were really scared, and that talk of Bigfoot was really silly.

ONE: Yeah, you're right. You know I wouldn't have made it through, though, if you hadn't taught me about the importance of paying attention to what was around us: creation, beauty, and God's Spirit. It really comforted me and helped me a lot.

TWO: Thanks! And you know you really did become a pretty good outdoor cook once you learned to appreciate the importance and blessings of everything that goes into preparing a meal.

ONE: I'm still sorry about the bad milk.

TWO: Don't be. Even that helped me recognize the blessings in life, and having you care enough to stay with me meant a lot. It also helped me remember that the Spirit is always around.

ONE: Right, even if it comes through noisy crickets, loud coyotes, and an inconsiderate rooster.

TWO: But we even learned from that, didn't we?

ONE: Yes. I learned I can't sleep on my belly.

TWO: Yeah, the snoring never did die down.

ONE: Hey...

TWO: Sorry!

ONE: And I also learned that there is beauty and spirit in noise if you just listen. This has been a good few days. I've been able to calm down, relax, and just enjoy being outside.

TWO: Better than the Ramada.



ONE: I didn't say that. But it's been good just to let the Spirit breathe.

TWO: Yeah, it has. But we need to go now.

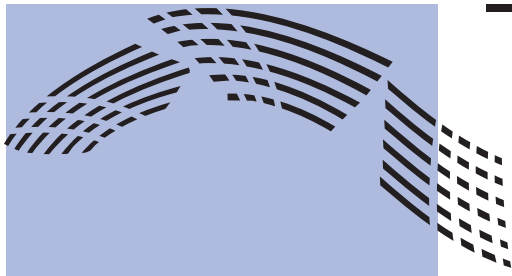
ONE: We'd better. Let me go pick up around the tent and we'll be ready to go.

TWO: Okay.

ONE: Hey, look at this footprint. It's about two feet long! Do you think...?

TWO: No, but let's go just in case!

*(both quickly exit)*



## Campfire Songs

### FUN SONGS

Make New Friends  
Gray Squirrel  
Alice the Camel  
Ants Go Marching  
Two Elephants Went Out to Play  
Bingo  
Father Abraham  
Flea  
Grand Old Duke of York  
I Want to Be a Friend of Yours  
I've Been Working on the Railroad  
John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt  
Keep on the Sunnyside  
More We Get Together  
One Bottle Pop  
Quarter Master's Store  
Sarasponda  
She Threw It out the Window  
Poor Little Bug on the Wall  
If I Were Not upon the Stage  
Kookaburra  
Grab Another Hand  
Do Re Mi  
Day-O (The Banana Boat Song)  
Home on the Range  
Be Kind to Your Web-Footed Friends  
Clementine  
I'm My Own Grandpa  
Vive l'Amour  
Boom Boom (Ain't It Great to Be Crazy)  
Green Grass Grows All Around  
I Know an Old Lady  
If You're Happy and You Know It  
Peanut Butter  
She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain  
Waltzing Matilda (Australian)  
A Ram Sam, Sam  
Kookaburra  
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# LET THE SPIRIT ...

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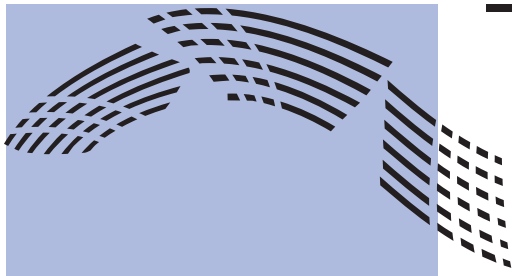
## Campfire Resources

Fire is a recurring element in scripture. During the Exodus journey of Israel a pillar of fire provided light so the sojourners could travel by night (Exodus 13:21). In the Gospel of John, Jesus visited the disciples after his resurrection. Jesus instructed the disciples to cast their nets on the other side of the boat. The disciples complied and were not able to pull the net in because of the multitude of fish. Peter finally has realized that this was indeed Jesus, and became so excited he jumped into the sea and swam to meet him. Jesus had prepared a fire so they could eat and share in fellowship (John 21:1–10).

Perhaps these events suggest the purpose and importance of a campfire—often the last activity before we make an exodus to our separate quarters. It is an important place where fellowship is shared and meaningful relationships may be enhanced. Above all, it may be a place where spiritual encounters are encouraged and occur.

A successful campfire is made up of a variety of items: songs, skits, stories, and spiritual disciplines that enable us to experience the Spirit moving among us. Here are some brief suggestions that might be helpful. There are numerous resources on campfire specifics available through national or regional camping associations.

1. Make the fire big and memorable (well built). Plan ahead and assign the task of fire building early so it isn't rushed at campfire time.
2. In publicity and announcements, suggest that campfire time will focus on exploring and talking about the Spirit that moves among us. Everyone needs to be present. Work creatively to get everyone there. Encourage the Christian education classes to promote and participate in providing elements for the campfire. People will be more likely to come if it is well planned and engaging.
3. Twenty-five to forty minutes of actual "campfire time" is plenty.
4. The use of spiritual disciplines may enhance the development of the campfire and focus. The practices to be utilized during the week include
  - mindful eating,
  - slow walk in nature,
  - exercise of gratitude,
  - deeper listening,



Five Hundred Miles  
My Grandfather's Clock  
Allelui – Praise Ye the Lord  
Do Lord  
I've Been Redeemed  
Rocka My Soul  
Bubblin' Over  
Ain't No Rock  
Rise and Shine  
Give Me Oil in My Lamp  
I Love the Flowers  
Peace Like a River  
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands  
Michael Row Your Boat Ashore  
Standin' in the Need of Prayer  
When the Spirit Says Move...  
Study War No More  
Jesus in the Morning  
Lean On Me  
I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy  
This Train (Round: Swing Low and  
I'm Gonna Sing)  
May There Always Be Sunshine  
Shenandoah  
Ezekiel Saw the Wheel  
Old Time Religion

#### SERIOUS

Father I Adore You  
Sanctuary  
Love, Love, Love, Love (Peace Song)  
Sing Alleluja to the Lord  
Freely, Freely  
I Have Decided to Follow Jesus  
Jacob's Ladder  
Lord I Want to Be a Christian  
Seek Ye First  
Spirit of the Living God  
Vine and Fig Tree  
Where He Leads Me I Will Follow  
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot  
We Are One in the Spirit  
Pass It On  
King of Kings  
Kumbaya  
If I Had a Hammer  
Dona Nobis Pacem  
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# LET THE SPIRIT ...

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## Campfire Resources

- centering prayer or breath prayer,
- lectio divina, and
- prayer of examen.

5. Closing remarks and prayers need to be short and focus on the theme or story for the day.

6. Give attention to the needs of those with wheelchairs, walkers, and canes, and provide some benches or chairs for those who need to sit off the ground.

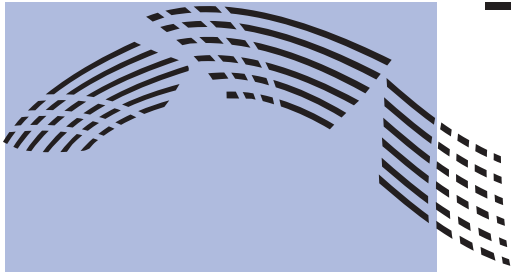
7. The best campfires are well planned, yet look spontaneous. A campfire leader is a minister, pastor, emcee, and entertainer all rolled into one. Prepare for the future; create an atmosphere where others can be trained to carry on the campfire tradition.

8. Share and teach new songs during the week. To teach in a captivating way, the leader should be enthusiastic and have the songs memorized. Do not teach new songs at the close of campfire; make it early in the experience. If the campfire leader isn't familiar with a new song or can't sing it, then it should not be taught. Some excellent campfire song resources include *Sing a New Song* (Herald House, 1999); *Songs for Camps and Reunions* (Herald House, 1986); *Rise Up Singing*, by Peter Blood and Annie Peterson (Legacy Books, Bethlehem, PA, 2004); *Joyful Noise*, Anne E. Turner, ed. (United Church Publishing House, 1999); and *Chants de Taizé* (Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 2001).

9. The leader doesn't need to be up front all the time; this allows for the fire itself to be the focal point and is very meditative and worshipful.

10. Get skits in place quickly, otherwise all the momentum gained in the evening is disrupted. Some common-sense rules should be used when providing skits:

- a) No inappropriate, sexist, or ethnic humor is allowed.
- b) Be respectful and affirming of everyone.
- c) Remind participants to bring whatever props they need.
- d) Skits should be previewed by the campfire leader and rehearsed prior to the campfire.
- e) Everyone needs to speak loudly so all can hear.



SERIOUS - CONTINUED

- Lord Be Glorified (In My Life...)
- Let There Be Peace on Earth
- Be Thou My Vision
- Fairest Lord Jesus
- Holy Ground
- How Can I Keep from Singing?
- Lonesome Valley
- Simple Gifts
- Wondrous Love
- Wade in the Water
- Amazing Grace
- Blowing in the Wind
- For the Beauty of the Earth
- Balm in Gilead

# LET THE SPIRIT ...

## Campfire Resources

11. There are four time-tested parts to a typical campfire. Let creativity inspire the planner; almost anything can work if the planner works hard.

Part 1: Opening—fun, light, wild, silly, fun skits (ten minutes)

Part 2: Transition—shift from light to serious (ten minutes)

Part 3: Serious—tender, introspective, spiritual discipline, closing thoughts, or testimony (twelve to fifteen minutes)

Part 4: Closing—prayer, sending forth, announcements

### Campfire Planning Guide

#### Opening

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#### Transition

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#### Serious

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#### Closing

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