

WORDS OF JESUS

SERMON SERIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

BORN OF THE SPIRIT

SPEAKER: Bo Stern Brady

DATE: May 10, 2026

TEXT(S): John 2:13-19, 3:1-8, with
Hebrews 7:18-19 and Psalm 69:9

***HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:** This resource is designed to help you, and your group, step through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message.*

Our goal is to help you and your group better understand and apply B4's teaching.

MESSAGE SUMMARY + DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Jesus' cleansing of the temple and His conversation with Nicodemus reveal a God who overturns empty systems to make room for spiritual rebirth. In John 2, Jesus disrupts a commodified religious structure, motivated by zeal, by love for His Father's house. In John 3, He tells Nicodemus that entering God's Kingdom requires being "born again" by the Spirit. Jesus goes on to say that the Spirit is like the wind. It's free and impossible to contain within rigid human systems. The message calls us to surrender fear, embrace born-from-above transformation, and remain open to the unfettered leadership of the Holy Spirit.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm-ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5 minutes.*

1. Have you ever had a carefully laid plan suddenly overturned? What was that like?
2. Are you someone who enjoys spontaneity or prefers predictability, and why?
3. Have you ever had an important conversation "in a quiet place," as Nicodemus did? What was that like?
4. What's one tradition or routine you value deeply, and why?
5. When have you experienced something that felt beyond your control but was ultimately meaningful?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) from the teaching. Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. What stands out to you about the intensity of Jesus' actions in the temple?
2. What does the commercialization of the Temple reveal about the spiritual condition of Israel?
3. How does the detail about Nicodemus coming at night add to the story?
4. What is the difference between "seeing" the Kingdom of God and "entering" it in Jesus' language?
5. What does Jesus say about being "born of Spirit" (or, "born from above")?
6. How might the metaphor of wind deepen our understanding of the Holy Spirit?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.*

Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:

1. What are some ways modern Christianity can become overly systematized or commodified?
2. Why do people often resist spiritual change even when they sense God is moving?
3. What cultural pressures encourage us to value control over surrender?
4. How does consumer culture shape the way people approach church and faith?
5. In what ways do modern people seek spirituality while still wanting to remain in control?

LOOK IN: *These questions help you consider how to engage the teaching for yourself.*

Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:

1. What systems, habits, or expectations make you feel spiritually safe but might have you stuck?
2. What fears most keep you from following the Spirit's leading?
3. How do you discern whether something is from the Holy Spirit?
4. What would it cost you to become more spiritually flexible and responsive?
5. What is one practical way you can say "yes" to the Spirit this week?

LIVE IT OUT: *These prayer practices can help you integrate this message into day-to-day life.*

Choose one prompt and discuss how you will embrace it this week (5 minutes):

1. An open-handed prayer: Spend five minutes each morning this week praying with "open hands." You can start with something like this, "Holy Spirit, overturn whatever keeps me from God's Kingdom. Make me willing to move in synch Your Wind today." Stop and listen quietly before speaking further. You might try reading a Psalm at this point. 139 would be helpful, for example. Proceed by confessing anything that might be holding you back from following the Spirit's lead.
2. Wind-awareness prayer: Whenever you feel frustrated at an interruption, delay, or unexpected redirection this week, pause and pray something like this, "Holy Spirit, are You moving here? Help me notice what You are doing in this moment." Take your cues from any disruptions, seeing them as invitations to spiritual attentiveness rather than something to push through or dodge.

You can find B4's [Series Resources here](#).

