

Life Group Topic #28 Duck Wings

WELCOME: (15 minutes)

If you were to be re-incarnated into an animal in a future life, which creature would you choose and why?

WORSHIP: (15 minutes)

Use whatever means possible to turn the group's attention to the wonder and majesty of our God- including music, prayer, meditation on the Psalms, and other art forms.

WORD APPLICATION: (45 minutes)

Briefly read or paraphrase the following sermon summary before moving to the heart of this section: the discussion around the application questions.

THE MINISTRY OF THE SECOND COUNSELOR MUST BE PERSONALIZED **...Ephesians 5:18—*be filled with the Spirit***

The filling of the Holy Spirit is necessary for living and so it is repetitive...*keep on being filled with the Spirit*. Since it is a command it implies that it is possible to have the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life and not the filling of the Holy Spirit. Somehow a releasing of the Holy Spirit is necessary...

- I express my willingness for His unrestricted activity in my life.
 - He has been given to convict...He is free to convict me and bring conviction through me
 - He has been given to teach...He is free to teach me and teach through me
 - He has been given to pray...He is free to move me to pray
 - He has been given to witness for Christ...He is free to witness through me
 - He has been given to live a life like Christ...He is free to live that life in me

- I express my willingness to submit to His authority.
 - He can be grieved by certain things—Ephesians 4:30--I won't allow those things to linger in my life?
 - He can be quenched—I Thessalonians 5:19—I will not minimize things that are important to Him
 - I am willing to put out of my life anything that is inconsistent with His character and to bring into my life the things that are consistent with His character

- I long for the impact of His filling
Isaiah 32:15...*when the Spirit is poured on us from on high, the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest...*

Three years ago I told you this story from **Tony Campolo's book "Let Me Tell You A Story"**...

There was once a town where all the residents were ducks. Every Sunday the ducks waddled out of their houses and waddled down Main Street to their church. They waddled into the sanctuary and squatted in their proper pews. The duck choir waddled in and took its place, and then the duck minister came forward and opened the duck Bible. He read to them: " Ducks! God has given us wings! With wings you can fly! With wings you can mount up and soar like eagles. No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! You have wings. God has given you wings, and you can fly like birds!

All the ducks shouted, "Amen!" And then they all waddled home.

We live and serve in the midst of a desert that can only be transformed by the Spirit of God...will you ask Him to? Will you ask Him for...

- A profound spirit of conviction to visit our ministries and our city
- A new dissatisfaction with what is and a deep desire for something new
- Evidence of Him bringing new life to the desert

Word Application Questions:

Please keep in mind that these questions are meant as catalysts designed to get the group talking about life application.

- 1. Which of the above manifestations of the filling of the Spirit do you most long to see in your life?**
- 2. What do you think quenches the Spirit in the church? In our lives as a Life Group?**
- 3. Consider Isaiah 32:15. When the Spirit of God is poured out on us, the desert becomes a lush green field; a deep green forest. What would be the indicators that our church has become a deep green forest?**
- 4. Read again the story of the ducks. In what way do our Sunday rituals mimic the ducks? In what ways would you like to fly?**
- 5. Spend time in expectant corporate prayer for the filling of the Holy Spirit.**

WITNESS: (15 minutes)

This section is a vision-casting time designed to get the group strategizing and making concrete plans towards reaching outward to a lost world. Relational outreach always has the goal of ultimately enfolding those we reach into the Life Group.