Study Guide for March 29th, 2009. The Right Decision. John 7:37-52.

Introduction: Describe a time you "had" to make a decision. What was the outcome?

I. The image of water.

A. Briefly summarize the lesson God wanted to teach Israel with water in . . .
1) Ex. 15:23-25: 2) Ex. 17:2-6:

B. What is the image of water linked with in the following passages?
1) Is. 12:3: 2) Is. 44:3-4:
3) Is. 55:1: 4) Zech. 14:8-9:

C. How is the image of water further developed in Neh. 9:15-20?

D. Why do you think the promise of the Spirit is linked with the supply of water?

II. The invitation of Jesus. (John 7:37-39)

A. When in the course of the festival does Jesus make this proclamation? (comp. 7:14)

B. Fill in the blanks and spend time reflecting on the significance of Jesus' words.
"If _____ is _____ , let him come to ___ and _____. Whoever _____ in me, as the Scripture has said, _____ of _____ _____ will flow from ____ him.

C. Link this invitation to Jesus' saying in John 4:13-14. How are the two related?

D. How is this promise fulfilled? When have you witnessed it fulfilled in a person?

III. The ignorance of the crowd. (John 7:40-44)

A. What attitudes regarding Jesus are held by different groups within the crowd?

B. What question confounds them? How is this ironic?

C. What ignorant (and inadequate) attitudes regarding Jesus are popular today?

IV. The impotence of the leaders. (John 7:45-52)

A. Why were the guards (see vs. 32) unsuccessful in their attempt to arrest Jesus?

B. Describe the mindset of the Pharisees as revealed in vs. 47-49.

C. How would you characterize Nicodemus? (see also John 3:1-15 & 19:38-42)

Conclusion: Read Eph. 5:15-20 and then ask God to fill you afresh with His Spirit.