



## Real Resources for Congregations

*Spirituality is “in”—and it may not have anything to do with faith in God.*

Secular spirituality, pagan spirituality, and Christian spiritual practices are easily confused even by people of committed faith in Jesus Christ. This series explores spirituality for individuals and churches, showing that the biblical vision of God’s people is a joyful community focused on living out the Word of God.

### Two Presentations for Groups and Congregations

Participants are invited to explore what we mean by the terms *spiritual* and *spirituality*, and then assess the biblical promise of life in the Spirit of God. These presentations speak to a wide range of audiences, from teen through mature adults.

#### Spirituality for Real People

If someone tells you “I’m spiritual, but not religious,” whose spirit are they talking about when they say “spiritual”? The Bible describes a vibrant, authentic life that comes from godly spirituality. For Christians, spirituality is about what God’s Spirit is doing in us. The spirit in the word *spiritual*, the Bible shows, is the living, powerful Spirit of God. God’s Spirit is not reserved for a select few, but open to real people seeking fullness in their Christian walk.

#### Spirituality for Real Churches

God’s Spirit is the core of our individual spirituality, and that same Spirit is core of our congregation’s spirituality. Most people do not think of spirituality in terms of community—even though this is the primary conception in the biblical witness. This presentation mines the rich theology of spirituality in the Bible. In addition, a key method for promoting spiritual maturity—“discern and adapt”—provides a resource immediately accessible by members of real churches.

#### Presenter

Mark Parker earned English degrees from Oklahoma Christian and the University of Idaho before serving for five years in the Zagreb, Croatia, church of Christ. He earned a Master of Divinity degree and is completing a Doctor of Ministry degree from Harding University Graduate School of Religion, where he currently serves as Assistant Vice President. He lives in Memphis, Tenn., with his wife, Christine, and two sons.

