

FOLLOWING THE FIRE Session 1: The Call Defined

Key Scriptures

Hosea 11:1; Exodus 3:7-1; Exodus 13:21-22

Opening Remarks:

We understand from the story of the Exodus that God called Moses to stand before Pharaoh and demand that the ruler let His people go. However, the call extended beyond that; it was a call to lead the people out of Egypt and to the Promised Land. And in order to lead, Moses would have to join them in their journey. Joining in this type of journey is not comfortable, but God has not called us to be settlers, but pioneers.

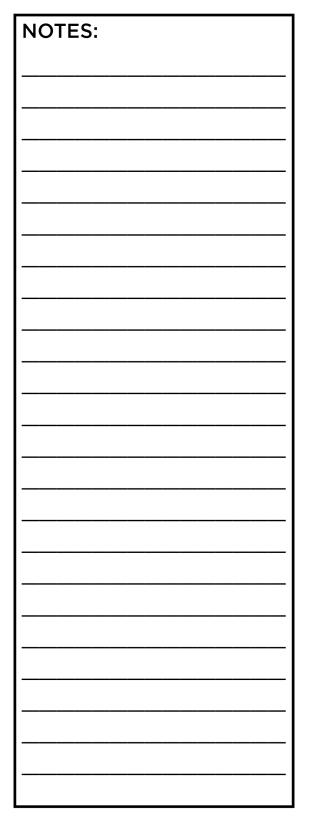
Watch Session 1 Video

Questions:

- What are some ways people or churches settle and fail to move forward in the journey God has called them to?
- 2. How does Abraham's faith to follow God challenge you in your walk with the Lord?
- 3. What would "leaving your comfort zone" look like for you?

Closing Remarks:

In the same way Moses was called to join the journey of the called-out Israelites, as believers, we are called to join in the journey of those God is calling out. There are people in bondage that we have been called to lead to Jesus, joining them as they journey and encouraging them as they progress. It is a miraculous work that God is doing, and He has extended an invitation for us to be part of the miracle. Let us pray together a prayer of surrender, asking the Lord to lead us as we seek to follow after Him.



FOLLOWING THE FIRE Session 2: The Purpose Defined

Key Scriptures:

Exodus 3:7-9

Opening Remarks:

When the Lord spoke to Moses from the burning bush and told him to go speak to Pharaoh about letting the Israelites go, His words described a people in extreme misery, pain, and affliction. The reason God was moved to act on their behalf was simply this: He loved His people! The motivation for providing a redeemer like Moses was God's love for His people. God has always been motivated first and foremost by His love for His people. Our purpose as disciples of Jesus Christ and our purpose as a church is no different. Our purpose is people.

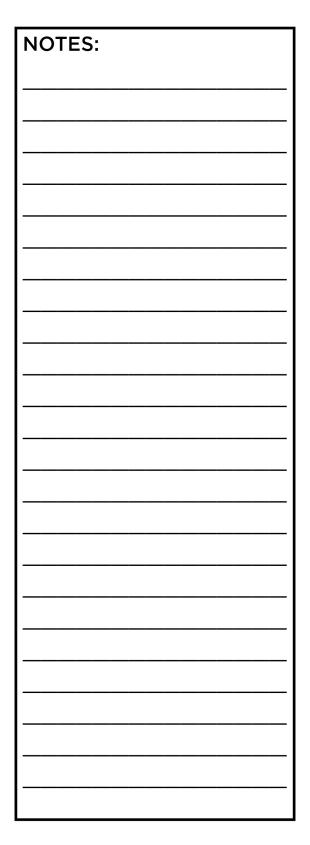
Watch the Session 2 Video

Discussion Questions:

- If possible, watch the "World's Biggest Eye Contact Experiment," and discuss what implications it should have for us as the church. <u>https://youtu.be/</u> <u>3QdnCRWATZ8?si=N7qAVXWvJZZjOQur</u>
- 2. How does our own pain, distractions, and busyness keep us from truly seeing those around us who are lost and in pain without Jesus?
- 3. If your main purpose and motivation as a believer was "people," how might you live differently than you do right now?

Closing Remarks:

What motivates you? What motivates our church? What motivates the ministries of our church? The reason God called Moses was the suffering and bondage of His people. The reason Jesus came to Earth and gave His life on a cross was "people." Let us pray that this week the Lord would open our eyes to truly see the people around us: those in captivity, in pain, and barely surviving.



FOLLOWING THE FIRE Session 3: The Destination Defined

Key Scriptures:

Exodus 3:8

Opening Remarks:

The call God gave Moses not only included leaving Egypt, but they were leaving for a better place. The place they were headed was a land flowing with milk and honey. It was going to be a place of abundance and plenty. This would be the land God had promised their ancestors. But the destination God had in mind was more than a physical land of abundance, it was a life of abundance. The process would take some time, but the destination was a place of fulfilled promise—a place where God's purpose would be realized. Their destination was full deliverance!

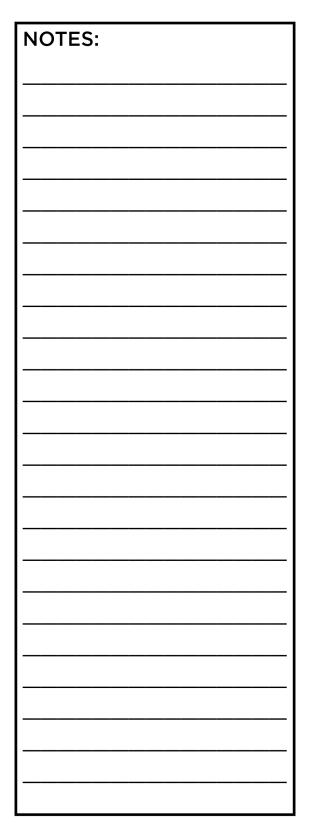
Watch the Session 3 Video

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What is the difference between being set free and actually living free?
- 2. Though it only took the Lord one night to get Israel out of Egypt, why do you think it took so long for Him to get Egypt completely out of them? In what ways can this same tendency to be shaped by our surroundings be seen in the life of the believer?
- 3. It is true that we can experience deliverance in this life, but what do you imagine full deliverance in the life to come (Heaven) will look like?

Closing Remarks:

The Lord wants us to experience deliverance! For those who are bound, the Lord has deliverance available for them. We can be made free today, but there is coming complete freedom. We can find transformation today, but there is coming ultimate transformation. The Lord wants to give us full deliverance. Let us pray together that the Lord would bring deliverance to those who are bound and that we would live now so that one day we will live in full deliverance.



FOLLOWING THE FIRE Session 4: The Means Defined

Key Scripture:

Exodus 33:12-16

Opening Remarks:

The term *means* refers to the medium, method, or instrument used to obtain a result or achieve an end. The "means" is really the "how" by which something will be accomplished. At Sinai, Moses asked the Lord how he and the people would survive the wilderness and reach the Promised Land. The Lord answered Moses by telling him that He would go with them. In essence, His presence would be how (or the means by which) they would fulfill all God had promised them. Moses affirmed his dependence upon God when he responded, "If your presence doesn't go with us, then we can go no further!"

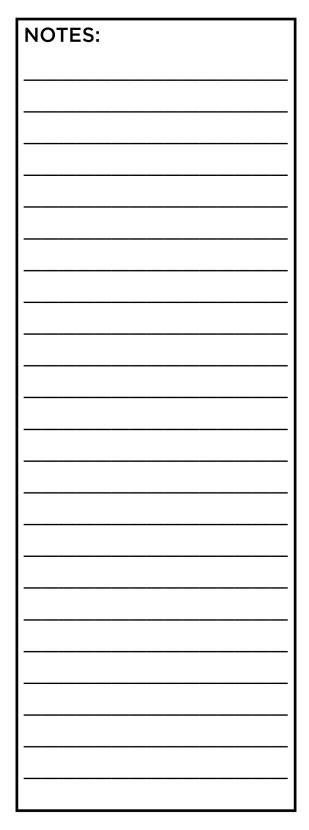
Watch the Session 4 Video

Discussion Questions:

- When was the last time you faced a situation and asked the Lord "how" it was going to all work out? What feeling usually accompanies that type of situation?
- 2. The writer of Genesis (Moses) continually reminds us during the telling of Joseph's story that "the Lord was with Joseph." How do you remind yourself that God is with you when you are facing difficulties?
- 3. How do we show our complete dependence upon the Lord?

Closing Remarks:

"If your presence doesn't go with us, then we can go no further!" Have you ever felt like you were in a position like that? We must continually remind ourselves (during good times and bad), that we need the presence of the Lord more than anything else. We need Him when we rise in the morning and when we go to bed at night. We need Him when we are sick, and we need Him when we are well. We are completely dependent upon Him. Let us pray together, confessing our dependence upon the Lord and asking Him to comfort those struggling to see that God is with them.



FOLLOWING THE FIRE Session 5: The Direction Defined

Key Scripture:

Exodus 40:34-38

Opening Remarks:

During the Israelites' journey through the wilderness, the Lord told them that whenever the cloud and fire moved, they were to move. This fire and cloud first appeared at the edge of the Red Sea, not long before they miraculously crossed on dry ground. Just before the waters parted, the Lord told Moses to tell the people of Israel to "go forward." God's direction is always forward. We are not asked to remain stagnant. We are never encouraged to go back. The direction God has for you, the church, and His kingdom is forward!

Watch Session 5 Video

Questions:

- 1. Wandering in the wilderness was God's punishment on the unbelieving generation, which lead to them dying off. Why is wandering such a dangerous thing in the life of the believer?
- 2. Do you feel you are moving forward in your walk with the Lord? Explain. If not, why do you think that is?
- 3. How can discouragement or disillusionment cause someone to turn back?

Closing Remarks:

Sometimes it may seem we are walking in circles, but if the Lord is leading, He will always lead us forward. As Paul said, we must "press toward the mark," making sure we are continually pushing forward. God is a God of "forward." We will never be satisfied with what is "back" once we have experienced God's call to move forward. Let us pray together that the Lord would help us to set our hearts and minds in a forward direction, looking to Him as our strength and our guide.

