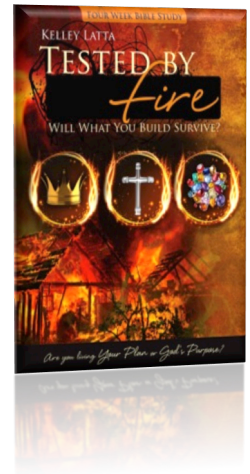


Discussion of Week Two:

Open in prayer and invite the Spirit to guide your discussion. Encourage group members to share how God spoke to them through the homework.



Day one:

1. In **John 14:21**, Jesus promises to show Himself to those who love Him. What do you think that means?
 - Share testimony of ways He has revealed Himself in your life.
2. Jesus said the most important command in all of Scripture is to love God with all that we are (**Mark 12:29-30**). How does God define love, according to **1 John 5:3** (p.37)?
3. Discuss how the characteristics of agape love differ from earthly love (p.37).
 - What do we need to do to love with agape?

Day two:

1. **2 Thessalonians 1:10** reveals that Jesus will be glorified in His people when He returns. How does Jesus being glorified “in” us differ from being glorified “by” us?
2. Everything God does finds its root in one purpose: seeing His will lived out on earth. According to **Ephesians 2:10**, for what purpose are we saved (p.41)?
 - How does this relate to God’s expectations of you once you are His?
3. Before God ever sent Jesus, He shared His purpose in establishing the new covenant in **Ezekiel 36:21-23**: to reveal His holiness through His people. What does that mean for you?
 - Do you recognize His Spirit moving you to follow Him?

Day three:

1. Can you relate to the opening story?
 - How can you apply the principle in your own life?
2. God replaced Saul as King over Israel because he failed to follow His instructions. What reasoning did Saul offer for his disobedience (p.48)?
 - Do find you also tend to justify your own partial obedience to God? What are your reasons?
3. How do we sometimes offer “sacrifices” to the Lord rather than obedience?

Day four:

1. Israel's elders asked for a king because they wanted to be like everyone else. How were the people rejecting God by requesting a king (p.51)?
 - Do you believe you are rejecting God when you insist on your own will?
2. God warned the people that insisting on having their own way would cost them. How did they respond in **1 Samuel 8:19** (p.52)?
 - How do we often make that same choice the Israelites made?
3. **Galatians 6:7-8** declares that every one of us will reap what we sow through our choices (p.53). What does it mean to "sow to please the Spirit" instead of sowing to please your sin nature?

Day five:

1. What happened when David tried to honor God by bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem (**2 Samuel 6:1-11**)? (p.56)
 - How would you have responded to God in those circumstances?
 - Why didn't God bless David's efforts (p.57)?
2. According to **Deuteronomy 10:13**, why does God give us decrees or instructions (p.58)?
 - Based on David's experience, is ignorance an excuse when we disregard God's instruction?
 - How can we ensure that the things we do for God will receive His favor and blessing?

Allow a time of sharing personal needs and prayer requests. Encourage group members to persevere in completing their lessons. Expect to see God reveal Himself!



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FINDING LIFE AND LOVE IN THE PURSUIT OF JESUS

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