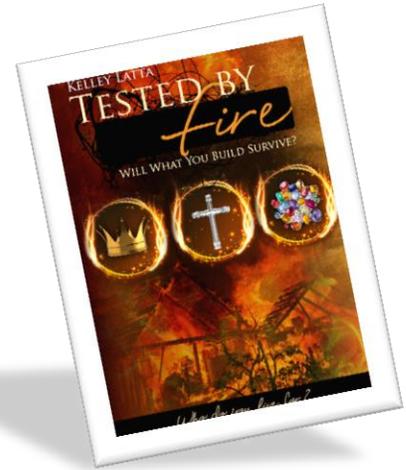


# Tested by Fire

## Introductory Session:

Are you living in the riches of the blessings and promises of God? Do you even know what's available to you in salvation? For these next 5 weeks we will be asking God to move us from the dry, weary desert into our place of blessing and purpose. Jesus desires to **reveal Himself** in your life!



**Ephesians 1:3** teaches that God has blessed His children with *“every spiritual blessing in Christ.”*

- **Discuss:** What are spiritual blessings?
  - [Some include: forgiveness (Acts 10:43), freedom from sin's penalty (Romans 6:23), victory over sin itself (Rom. 6:14), fruit of the Spirit –love, joy, peace, patience (Gal. 5:22), purpose (Jer. 29:11), spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:4-11)]

**Consider:** Are you experiencing and living out the blessings available to you in Jesus?

- Jesus said in **Matthew 22:14**, *“For many are invited but few are chosen.”*
- **Discuss:** What do you think that means?

**Best illustration of this principle:** God's deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt.

God sent Moses to rescue His people out of Egypt after 400 years of slavery. He invited them to trust Him to lead them out of their bondage into a new land, a land of blessing that He had purposed especially for them.

- Read **Exodus 12:37**. How many people accepted God's invitation to leave Egypt?
- According to **Numbers 14:30**, how many of them were actually chosen to dwell in the blessing God desired to give them?

Out of the 600,000 men God rescued out of Egypt, only **2** of them actually received the blessings God had meant for them. The rest died in the desert, short of receiving His promise.

- **Discuss:** How does the experience of the Israelites compare to what is happening to you? Are you living out the blessings Christ died to give you, or do you feel as though you're stuck in the desert?

God has invited you here so He can guide you out of the desert and into the blessings He has spoken over your life. I believe He seeks to change that statistic and awaken His church to become what He ordained us to be. He desires to make YOU a revelation of His glory! Are you ready to let Him?

- **Discuss:** What command does God give us in **Hebrews 6:12**?

Let's follow God's suggestion and imitate the two Israelite men who actually received the blessing God had for them. What did Caleb and Joshua have that the others did not?

- **Caleb:** Read **Numbers 14:20-24**.
  - According to **verse 24**, what 2 qualities did Caleb possess that moved God to give him his inheritance?
  - Discuss how you think that could apply to you.
  
- **Joshua:** Please read **Exodus 33:7-11**. **Discuss:**
  - According to **verse 7**, who could inquire of the Lord?
  - What did the people do while Moses met with God in the tent of meeting?
  - What does **verse 11** reveal about Joshua?

Joshua's example teaches one of the most important lessons we can learn if we're going to become what God desires us to be. What made Him unique? While the others stood at a distance from God and watched while their leader drew near to Him, Joshua positioned himself as near as he could to the presence of the Lord.

If we want to make it into our place of blessing and favor, we **must spend time in the presence of God**.

This is why we're here, dear ones. This Bible study is designed to lead you into deep, interactive encounters with the King of Kings so that He may move you out of the desert and into His purpose for you. Are you ready to enter in?

**Additional suggestion:**

- Just before Joshua finally led the Israelites into their Promised Land, he gave them a command. What did Joshua ask of God's people in **Joshua 3:5**?

Let's get ready for God to do amazing things in and through our lives! Ask God to show you what you can offer Him as an act of consecration over the next four weeks. What can you do to show God that you would like to present yourself holy to Him in preparation for His mighty work? Perhaps it's giving up a television show you watch. Maybe it's time spent shopping each week or a particular food. Maybe it's relinquishing a particular activity or finally doing something you know God's been prompting you to do. Wherever He leads you, ask Him to help you keep your commitment to Him and trust Him to provide.

Have a time of prayer where you as a group commit to dedicate the next four weeks to allow God to change you and move you to a new place in Him. Then get ready to see God move!



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