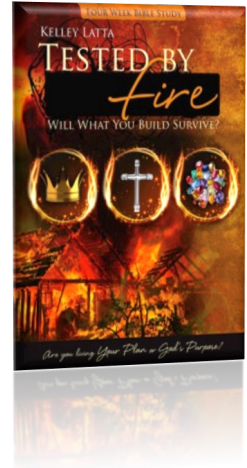


Discussion of Week One:

Open in prayer and invite the Spirit to provide understanding during your discussion.



Day one:

1. Have you ever felt like you were missing something in your Christian walk, or that your experience didn't measure up to God's promises? If so, why do you think that is?
2. What do you think it means to put your faith in Jesus?
3. **Matthew 7:21** teaches that not everyone who calls Jesus "Lord" will enter heaven. Does it surprise you that Jesus will turn people away at His return, even people who appeared to serve Him?
 - These people trusted that the works they did in Jesus' name would save them. What were Jesus' reasons for turning them away (**verses 21, 23**)?
 - How can you know for certain that you belong to Him?

Day two:

1. What do you think it means that Christ is the "head" of the church (**Colossians 1:18**)? Discuss the analogy between Christ's church and the workings of our physical bodies from page 14.
 - How can you apply this concept in your life? In your church?
2. **2 Corinthians 11:14** warns us that our enemy masquerades as an angel of light (p.15). What danger does that present for us and how can we avoid it?
3. According to Scripture, every believer possesses the ability to hear God (**John 8:47**).
 - Do you hear Him? If you don't, what do you think might be keeping you from that blessing?

Day three:

1. How does your relationship with Jesus differ from what He describes in **John 10** (p.18)?
2. In **John 5:39-40** Jesus warns that we can diligently study His Word and yet miss its life (p.20). How do you think that's possible?
 - Do you tend to approach Scripture like a textbook or an opportunity to meet with God?
3. What do you think it means to be a "true worshiper" (**John 4:23-24**)? (p.21)
 - Discuss ways that we can interact with the Spirit as we read God's Word.
4. Share a time God spoke through His Word to guide you along His plan for you.

Day four:

1. Do you ever struggle with wanting to do one thing, but actually doing something else?
 - Why do you think we often fail to follow through on our good intentions?
2. **Galatians 5:16-18** teaches that each one of us battles between following our old sinful nature and the Holy Spirit we receive at salvation (p.25). The result of allowing that conflict to continue will always end in sin (**verse 17**). Why do you think that is?
 - What do we need to do to end that battle and resolve the conflict?
 - Do these verses help you to better understand your own personal struggles?

Day five:

1. **Proverbs 14:12** teaches that what seems right to us often leads to death (p.28).
 - Discuss the dangers of acting on our feeling.
2. What can you do to present yourself to God as a living sacrifice (p.29)?
 - How can being willing to embrace God's will place you in a position to discern it?
3. Based on Jesus' words in **Luke 9:23**, what do you think it really means to follow Him (p.31)?
4. Share testimony of how the death or end of something opened the doorway to a new blessing.

Close in prayer, inviting Jesus to change your hearts with the truths you're learning. Encourage group members to spend dedicated time with Jesus and complete their daily lessons.



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FINDING LIFE AND LOVE IN THE PURSUIT OF JESUS

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