

*Participant Guide*



housefires

*Highpoint Spiritual Growth 2026*





# ***Welcome to HouseFires!***

**HouseFires** is a ministry curriculum designed to get people acknowledging, feeling, and experiencing the presence of God as Jesus collides with their worldview. A fire is made up of three basic elements. Fuel, Friction, and Oxygen. The goal of each session is to bring God's Truth (the **fuel**) into **friction** with our world. In order for that friction to develop into a fire of faith in our hearts, we must encounter the Breath of Life; the Holy Spirit (the **oxygen**). Each lesson incorporates these three elements intentionally. *May God bless you abundantly through this curriculum!*

## **Scripture Notice**

In this course, we often use excerpts from the World English Bible (WEB). We use this translation because the WEB Bible is in the public domain which aligns with my vision to give this material away freely without needing permission from the publisher.

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# housefires

## DAY 1

## WEEK 1

**READ:** “I am the vine. You are the branches. He who remains in me, and I in him, the same bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” — John 15:5

**REFLECT:** We often treat our character flaws like home renovation projects—we think if we just work harder, we can fix them. But spiritual growth isn't a DIY project; it's a connection issue. If a branch is disconnected from the vine, no amount of “trying” will produce fruit. Transformation starts when we admit that our own willpower has hit a dead end and we need to reconnect to the Source.

**RESPOND:** In what specific area of your life (a temper, a habit, or an anxiety) do you feel most exhausted from trying to “fix it” yourself?

## DAY 2

**READ:** “...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” — Philippians 2:12

**REFLECT:** There is a massive difference between working for something and working out something. You don't work to earn God's love; you already have it through Christ. Like a miner bringing gold to the surface, your job is simply to bring the “treasure” God has already placed in your heart out into your daily actions. You aren't searching for strength you don't have; you are developing the strength He has already provided.

**RESPOND:** How would your level of peace change today if you stopped trying to earn God's favor and started practicing the grace He has already given you?

## DAY 3

**READ:** “For it is God who works in you both to will and to work, for his good pleasure.” — Philippians 2:13

**REFLECT:** Do you ever feel guilty because you don't even “want” to do the right thing? The beauty of the Gospel is that God doesn't just give us the power to act; He works in us to change our “will.” He is currently at work within you, reshaping your desires and your motivations. You aren't alone in the struggle to change; He is providing the “want to” from the inside out.

**RESPOND:** What is one “good desire” (such as a craving for peace or a desire to be more patient) that you can feel God growing in your heart right now?

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## DAY 4

**READ:** “Search me, God, and know my heart. Try me, and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.” — Psalm 139:23-24

**REFLECT:** We are meant to be conduits for God’s power, like a pipe carrying water from a reservoir. The Holy Spirit has already filled the reservoir, but often our “pipes” are clogged with pride, self-will, or distractions. We don’t need to “pump” harder to get the water moving; we simply need to remove the blockages. When we surrender our “clogs” to Him, His purpose flows naturally through us.

**RESPOND:** What is one “blockage” (a specific habit, a digital distraction, or a self-reliant attitude) that is currently keeping God’s peace from flowing through you?

## DAY 5

**READ:** “Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service.” — Romans 12:1

**REFLECT:** Transformation is less about “trying harder” and more about “yielding deeper.” To yield means to let someone else take the right of way. In the spiritual life, this means stepping out of the driver’s seat and letting the Holy Spirit lead. We stop our frantic striving to be “better” and start trusting the One who is already working within us to fulfill His good purpose.

**RESPOND:** As you head into this week’s lesson, what is one situation you are ready to stop “striving” in and start “yielding” to God’s control?

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# housefires

## DAY 1

## WEEK 2

**READ:** "Or don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price." — 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

**REFLECT:** Most of our frustration with health comes from thinking our bodies belong to us. When we are the owners, we use our bodies for vanity or comfort. But the Gospel says we are "leased vessels." Your body is the physical housing for the Living God. When you realize God owns the "property," the way you maintain it changes from a chore to an act of worship.

**RESPOND:** How does the reality that God owns your physical body change the way you think about things like rest, diet, or exercise?

## DAY 2

**READ:** "the good which I desire, I don't do; but the evil which I don't desire, that I practice." — Romans 7:19

**REFLECT:** We often know exactly what we should do to be healthier, yet we find ourselves unable to do it. This "gap" between knowledge and action exists because we try to power our changes with self-sourced willpower. When the motivation is just about our own reflection in the mirror, our fuel eventually runs dry. We need a higher "Why" to bridge the gap.

**RESPOND:** Where do you feel most "stuck" in your physical health right now? Is your current motivation for change based on self-image or God's ownership?

## DAY 3

**READ:** "Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." — 1 Corinthians 6:20

**REFLECT:** If your body is a temple, then every meal, every hour of sleep, and every movement is an act of stewardship. We aren't trying to change our bodies to earn God's love; we are surrendering our bodies to Him because He already loves us. If He bought you at a price, He is deeply invested in the maintenance of His temple. He provides the grace for the "How" when we align with His "Why."

**RESPOND:** Looking at your habits, are you currently treating your body more like a private playground or a sacred place of service?

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## DAY 4

**READ:** "...neither present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God... and your members as instruments of righteousness to God." — Romans 6:13

**REFLECT:** Think of your body as an instrument or a conduit. If a musical instrument is out of tune or broken, it's harder to play a beautiful song. Similarly, when we neglect our health, we may find ourselves too exhausted or distracted to serve others effectively. We steward our health so that the Holy Spirit has a clear, vibrant channel to flow through to reach the world.

**RESPOND:** What is one practical change you can make this week to ensure your "instrument" is in better condition for God to use?

## DAY 5

**READ:** "For bodily exercise has some value, but godliness is profitable for all things..." — 1 Timothy 4:8

**REFLECT:** Physical health is not the ultimate goal, but it is a vital tool. Worldly "fitness" is often about vanity and striving to reach an impossible standard. Kingdom "stewardship" is about being prepared for whatever God asks of us. When we stop striving for the world's standards and start yielding our physical selves to God, we find the strength to care for ourselves for the right reasons.

**RESPOND:** What is one area of your physical life (sleep, energy, habits) that you need to stop "fixing" on your own and start surrendering to God's strength today?

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# housefires

## DAY 1

## WEEK 3

**READ:** “Yahweh God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.’” — Genesis 2:18

**REFLECT:** God’s first “negative” observation about humanity wasn’t about sin; it was about isolation. Even in a perfect garden with a perfect connection to God, man was not meant to be alone. We are designed for horizontal connection. We often try to “fix” our loneliness with technology or social media, but those are often shadows of the real, life-on-life connection our souls crave.

**RESPOND:** Why do you think it is possible to be in a room full of people—even at a large church service—and still feel completely isolated?

## DAY 2

**READ:** “Every day, in the temple and at home, they never stopped teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” — Acts 5:42

**REFLECT:** In the early church, faith wasn’t just a Sunday event; it was a rhythmic movement between the Temple (large gatherings) and the Table (homes). The Temple provided the teaching, but the home provided the connection. We need both. Large groups fuel us with the Word, but small groups put that fuel into motion through shared lives, meals, and prayers.

**RESPOND:** Which setting do you find more “comfortable”—the large church service or a small group in a home—and why?

## DAY 3

**READ:** “Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good works, not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another...” — Hebrews 10:24-25

**REFLECT:** From the perspective of the Bible, we aren’t meant to be “spiritual reservoirs” that just collect truth. If water stays in a reservoir with no outlet, it becomes stagnant and lifeless. We are designed to be conduits. The “river of living water” Jesus promised flows through us to one another. When we stop assembling together, we risk becoming stagnant.

**RESPOND:** How does sharing your spiritual journey with others keep your own faith fresh and moving rather than stagnant?



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## DAY 4

**READ:** “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.” — Colossians 3:16

**REFLECT:** You cannot fully experience the “all-sufficiency” of Christ if you are disconnected from the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit often releases the specific comfort, wisdom, or strength you need through the mouth of a brother or sister sitting across from you. We don’t just “go” to a group; we become the Church to one another, acting as the very hands and feet of Jesus for each other’s needs.

**RESPOND:** Can you think of a time when the Holy Spirit used someone else’s words or encouragement to give you exactly what you needed in a difficult moment?

## DAY 5

**READ:** “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” — Galatians 6:2

**REFLECT:** Letting people into your life can be intimidating. It requires breaking down walls of pride, fear, and the “I’m fine” mask we often wear. However, we were never meant to carry our burdens alone. When we yield our need for “privacy” to the priority of “community,” we find that the very thing we feared—being known—is actually the doorway to being healed.

**RESPOND:** What is one “burden” or “wall” you are ready to bring to the table this week so that you can experience the strength of the community?

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# housefires

## DAY 1

## WEEK 4

**READ:** "God created man in his own image. In God's image he created him; male and female he created them." — Genesis 1:27

**REFLECT:** Because we are made in the image of God, we have been uniquely gifted with the capacity to imagine and to dream. Dreaming is simply the ability to see the future God desires for us. However, the moment we move toward a God-given vision, "giants" appear. These roadblocks are not signs that you are on the wrong path; they are often proof that you are moving in a direction that threatens the status quo.

**RESPOND:** What is a dream or a positive change God has placed on your heart that currently feels blocked by a "giant"?

## DAY 2

**READ:** "Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but one who keeps the law is blessed." — Proverbs 29:18

**REFLECT:** Without a clear vision of who God is calling us to be, we don't just stay still—we drift. In a fallen world, a life without direction always drifts "downhill" toward apathy, defeat, or old habits. We need God's "revelation" to keep us focused. Vision acts as an anchor that prevents us from being swept away by the current of our circumstances or the intimidation of our problems.

**RESPOND:** If you look back at the last few months, can you see areas where you have been "drifting" rather than moving with purpose?

## DAY 3

**READ:** "David said to the Philistine, 'You come to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a javelin; but I come to you in the name of Yahweh of Armies, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.'" — 1 Samuel 17:45

**REFLECT:** When we face "giant-sized" problems, our natural instinct is to sharpen our own "swords and spears." We try to work harder, worry more, or manipulate our circumstances to find a way through. But David understood God's Word: the power doesn't come from the tool in your hand, but from the Source in your heart. We don't have to generate our own courage when we stand in the Name of the One who has already won.

**RESPOND:** Which "weapon" do you usually reach for first when things get hard: your own skill and planning, or a total dependence on God?

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## DAY 4

**READ:** "...and that all this assembly may know that Yahweh doesn't save with sword and spear; for the battle is Yahweh's, and he will give you into our hand." — 1 Samuel 17:47

**REFLECT:** Your "giants" are not there to stop you; they are there to stop your self-reliance. The battle you are facing today is not actually yours to win—it is the Lord's. David didn't defeat Goliath because he was the best slinger in Israel; he defeated him because he was a surrendered conduit for the God of Israel. When we stop trying to fight in our own strength, we allow God's victory to overflow through us.

**RESPOND:** How would your stress level change today if you truly accepted that the "battle is the Lord's" and not your own?

## DAY 5

**READ:** "Then he answered and spoke to me, saying, 'This is Yahweh's word to Zerubbabel, saying: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says Yahweh of Armies.'" — Zechariah 4:6

**REFLECT:** We often feel like "grasshoppers" compared to our giants because we are looking at our own limited power. But the giant is not moved by your effort; the giant is moved by the Spirit of God flowing through you. Transformation and victory come when we stop "trying harder" and start "yielding deeper." We surrender the battlefield to the One who has never lost a war, trusting that He will work out of us what He has already worked into us.

**RESPOND:** As you head into this week's lesson, what is one specific giant (fear, debt, a broken relationship) that you are ready to surrender to the Holy Spirit?

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## DAY 1

## WEEK 5

**READ:** “Where do wars and fightings among you come from? Don’t they come from your pleasures that war in your members? You lust, and don’t have. You kill, and covet, and can’t obtain.” — James 4:1-2

**REFLECT:** Strained relationships are almost always rooted in a “source” problem. When we stop looking to God as our Source, we start demanding that other people—spouses, parents, or friends—fill needs that only God can satisfy. This leads to pride, tension, and a sense of “relational bankruptcy.” We become frustrated when others cannot give us the peace or worth that we should be receiving from the Father.

**RESPOND:** Have you ever experienced a relationship that felt “bankrupt” because you were looking to that person to provide something that only God can give?

## DAY 2

**READ:** “The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his livelihood between them. Not many days after, the younger son gathered everything together and took a journey into a far country.” — Luke 15:12-13

**REFLECT:** The Prodigal Son began his journey with arrogance, demanding his inheritance as if he were the source of his own life. He wanted the Father’s blessings, but he didn’t want the Father’s presence. We often do the same—we want God’s peace, provision, and protection, but we try to use those things independently of Him. Independence from the Source always leads to a “far country” of emptiness and exhaustion.

**RESPOND:** In what ways have you tried to take the “blessings” of God (like your talents or resources) and use them for your own goals while ignoring the Giver?

## DAY 3

**READ:** “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough to spare, and I’m dying with hunger!’” — Luke 15:17

**REFLECT:** Transformation begins the moment we “come to our senses.” In the Bible, we understand that this means realizing that you are not the source and that the world’s “husks” cannot sustain you. The son didn’t just decide to “try harder” to be a better person; he realized that his self-reliance had left him starving. Real change starts when we admit we are empty and that our own strength has run dry.

**RESPOND:** What are some “husks” (approval, money, or control) that you have been trying to live on lately that have left you feeling spiritually hungry?

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## DAY 4

**READ:** *"I will get up and go to my father, and will tell him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'" — Luke 15:18-19*

**REFLECT:** *We often try to fix our behavior or our feelings, but those are just the "outflow." To see real change, we must return to the "inflow"—our relationship with the Father. The son had to stop making excuses and simply own his sin. When we bring our "clogged conduits" of pride and selfishness to God and say, "I have sinned," we clear the way for His grace to flow back into our lives.*

**RESPOND:** *Why is it so difficult to say the words, "I have sinned," and take full responsibility for your actions without making excuses?*

## DAY 5

**READ:** *"He arose, and came to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him, and was moved with compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him." — Luke 15:20*

**REFLECT:** *The Father didn't wait for the son to "fix himself" or clean up before running to him. The moment the son turned back, the Father moved to restore his identity. He went from being a "slave" in his own mind to being a "son" in his Father's arms. When we are re-connected to the Source, we stop surviving on the world's scraps and start living out of the Father's overflow. We don't have to earn our way back; we just have to yield to His embrace.*

**RESPOND:** *If you were to describe your current "distance" from the Father, are you in the "pigsty" of self-reliance, "on the road" back to Him, or "at the table" enjoying His presence?*

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# housefires

## DAY 1

## WEEK 6

**READ:** “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it is the wellspring of life.” — Proverbs 4:23

**REFLECT:** Stress is often treated as something that happens to us from the outside, but it is actually our internal response to external pressure. Two people can walk through the exact same crisis—a job loss or a health scare—and react in completely opposite ways. The difference isn't the situation; it's the internal “thermostat.” When we guard our hearts and minds, we realize that our peace is not determined by our surroundings, but by our Source.

**RESPOND:** Why is it our natural instinct to blame our surroundings for our stress rather than examining our internal response?

## DAY 2

**READ:** “Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me... for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” — Matthew 11:28-30

**REFLECT:** Much of our stress comes from a “pressure” issue. When we believe that we are the source of our own security, provision, or success, the weight of the entire world rests on our shoulders. We were never designed to hold that kind of pressure. The Bible teaches us that we are simply conduits. When we realize the Source is responsible for the outcome, the heavy burden of “self-reliance” is lifted.

**RESPOND:** What specific burden (financial, relational, or professional) are you currently carrying that was never meant for your shoulders?

## DAY 3

**READ:** “But you be sober in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, and fulfill your ministry.” — 2 Timothy 4:5

**REFLECT:** To “keep a clear mind” (or be “sober”) doesn't mean we ignore our problems; it means we refuse to let them intoxicate us with fear. A clear mind is one focused on the sufficiency of God rather than the insufficiency of self. If your mind is cluttered with “what ifs,” you have stopped being a conduit of His peace and have started trying to be a reservoir of your own strength. Clarity returns when we focus on what God has called us to do in the present moment.

**RESPOND:** Looking at a current stressor in your life, what “what if” thoughts are most distracting you from having a clear mind?

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## DAY 4

**READ:** “In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God... will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.” — Philippians 4:6-7

**REFLECT:** Stress is often a “thinking problem” before it is a circumstantial problem. If you believe a crisis is coming—whether it is real or imagined—you will feel the physical and emotional weight of stress. Peace isn’t the absence of trouble; it is the presence of God guarding our thoughts. By bringing “everything” to Him in prayer, we clear the blockages of worry and allow His supernatural peace to flow through the “pipe” of our minds.

**RESPOND:** Is there an “imagined” crisis or a future fear that is causing you real stress today? How can you surrender that thought to God?

## DAY 5

**READ:** “You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.” — Isaiah 26:3

**REFLECT:** Internal friction vanishes when we surrender the outcome of our lives to the Holy Spirit. We have two jobs: to do the right thing in the moment and to trust God for the result. When our minds are “stayed” on Him, we are no longer paralyzed by the storm. We become effective conduits of His love and purpose because we aren’t exhausted by trying to control the future. The pressure is off of you and on the One who rules the wind and the waves.

**RESPOND:** Practically speaking, what does it look like for you to “stop fighting” for a specific result this week and instead trust the Holy Spirit with the outcome?

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# housefires

## DAY 1

## WEEK 7

**READ:** “Don’t be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God.” — Romans 12:2

**REFLECT:** Most of our prayers are focused on asking God to change our circumstances, but God is far more interested in changing our minds. He prioritizes your character over your comfort. We often view a difficult situation as a “problem” to be removed, but to God, that situation may be the “tool” He is using to transform how you think. Real transformation doesn’t come from a change in scenery, but from a total mental realignment with Him.

**RESPOND:** What is one “problem” in your life right now that you have been asking God to remove, but might actually be a tool He is using to grow you?

## DAY 2

**READ:** “For as he thinks about himself, so he is.” — Proverbs 23:7

**REFLECT:** The mind is the cockpit of the human life; wherever your thoughts go, your life will inevitably follow. If your mind is conformed to the patterns and anxieties of this world, you will experience the world’s stress and confusion. To “manage your mind” is to act as a faithful steward of your spiritual conduit. When your thinking is clear and aligned with truth, the peace of God can flow into every other area of your life.

**RESPOND:** Looking at your past week, where have your thoughts been leading you—toward peace and trust, or toward worry and frustration?

## DAY 3

**READ:** “‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,’ says Yahweh. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.’” — Isaiah 55:8-9

**REFLECT:** The friction we feel in life often comes from trying to navigate “higher” spiritual realities with “lower” worldly logic. We try to solve God-sized problems with earthly strategies like manipulation, worry, or self-effort. The Bible teaches us that we must lay down our limited perspective to receive God’s higher thoughts. When we stop reacting with earth-bound logic, we start responding with heaven-bound wisdom.

**RESPOND:** What is one situation where you have been trying to use “earthly logic” to solve a problem that clearly needs a “God-sized” solution?

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## DAY 4

**READ:** “For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct him?’ But we have Christ’s mind.”  
— 1 Corinthians 2:16

**REFLECT:** This is a staggering claim: through the Holy Spirit, we have access to the “mind of Christ.” This means you are not stuck with your own limited perspective or your past mental hang-ups. You have access to the wisdom, discernment, and peace of Jesus Himself. Having the mind of Christ allows you to see people, problems, and possibilities exactly how God sees them, regardless of what the world says.

**RESPOND:** How would having the “mind of Christ” change the way you view a person or a situation that currently feels like a “clog” in your peace?

## DAY 5

**READ:** “Finally, brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there is any virtue, and if there is any praise, think about these things.” — Philippians 4:8

**REFLECT:** Mind management is only possible when we are intentional about what we allow into our “cockpit.” If we feed our minds on the noise, bad news, and pride of the world, we shouldn’t be surprised when our lives feel chaotic. Truth is the only thing that can clear a mental battleground. When we replace worldly lies with God’s Truth, we aren’t just “thinking better”—we are learning to think with Him, allowing His perspective to overflow through us.

**RESPOND:** What is one practical way you can “feed” your mind on the Word of God this week rather than the noise of the world?

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## DAY 1

## WEEK 8

**READ:** "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." — Mark 12:30

**REFLECT:** God is not a cold, clinical, or distant deity; He is a passionate God. Because we were created in His image, we are emotional beings as well. He doesn't just want our intellectual agreement or our outward obedience; He wants our hearts. We often feel comfortable being "passionate" about hobbies or sports, but we tend to hold back our emotions when it comes to God. Transformation involves inviting Him into our emotional world.

**RESPOND:** Why is it sometimes easier to express deep emotion for entertainment or sports than it is to express passion for your relationship with God?

## DAY 2

**READ:** "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it is the wellspring of life." — Proverbs 4:23

**REFLECT:** In God's Word, we see that our emotions are intended to be a response to God's character. However, if we do not manage our emotions, they will inevitably manage us. Unmanaged emotions make us unreliable and easily manipulated by our circumstances. To "keep" or guard your heart means to ensure the "conduit" of your emotions is clear of bitterness and fear so that the Holy Spirit's peace can flow through you to others.

**RESPOND:** In what specific area of your life have "unmanaged emotions" (like fear or anger) recently clogged your conduit and kept you from experiencing God's peace?

## DAY 3

**READ:** "Also delight yourself in Yahweh, and he will give you the desires of your heart." — Psalm 37:4

**REFLECT:** Many of us spend our lives chasing "desires" as our source of happiness. But this scripture shows a different order: we delight in the Source (Yahweh) first, and He shapes the desires of our heart. When we surrender our feelings to the Spirit, our emotions are "worked out" into healthy passion. We stop being led by every passing whim and start loving what God loves and feeling what God feels.

**RESPOND:** What is one "good desire" that you can feel God growing in your heart as you spend more time focusing on Him?

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## DAY 4

**READ:** “Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’” — Matthew 22:37

**REFLECT:** Jesus calls us to love Him with both our heart (emotions) and our mind (intellect). It is dangerous to have one without the other. Faith without emotion becomes a cold, dead religion; emotion without truth becomes a shallow, unstable experience. We are called to an all-consuming relationship where our feelings and our thoughts are both fully surrendered to the Holy Spirit.

**RESPOND:** Do you tend to lean more toward "head knowledge" (mind) or "emotional experience" (heart)? How would bringing both into balance change your worship?

## DAY 5

**READ:** “...not lagging in diligence; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;” — Romans 12:11

**REFLECT:** To be "fervent in spirit" means to have a heart that is on fire for God's purposes. We shouldn't suppress our emotions, but we also can't let them sit in the driver's seat. When we yield our emotional life to God, He doesn't take our feelings away; He ignites them for His glory. He replaces the "friction" of worldly anxiety with the "fire" of holy devotion, making us effective conduits for His love.

**RESPOND:** As you head into this week's lesson, what is one way you can invite the Holy Spirit to "manage" your emotional life so that you can love Him more passionately?

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# housefires

## DAY 1

## WEEK 9

**READ:** “Yahweh God caused a deep sleep to fall on the man, and he slept. He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Yahweh God made a woman from the rib which he had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.” — Genesis 2:21-22

**REFLECT:** Relationships were God’s idea, and the architecture of our creation reveals His design. The Hebrew word for “rib” suggests a “half-circle,” meaning we were made for a “one flesh” union where two halves join as equals. God didn’t take the woman from the man’s feet to be walked on, or his head to rule him, but from his side—close to his heart—to be deeply loved. When we forget this design, we stop viewing others as partners and start viewing them as projects or problems.

**RESPOND:** Why is it so much easier for us to point out someone else’s flaws in a relationship than to examine the state of our own hearts?

## DAY 2

**READ:** “He said, ‘I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.’” — Genesis 3:10

**REFLECT:** Conflict entered the world the moment humanity doubted the goodness of God as their Source. When Adam and Eve stopped trusting God’s provision, fear flooded the conduit of their relationship. Instead of overflowing with love, they began to hide and blame one another. Today, most of our tension still comes from this same root: we are afraid of exposure (shame), afraid of disapproval (rejection), or afraid of losing control.

**RESPOND:** Looking at a recent conflict, can you identify which of those three fears (exposure, disapproval, or control) was driving your reaction?

## DAY 3

**READ:** “What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?” — Romans 8:31

**REFLECT:** The fear of disapproval often makes us “leaky” conduits. We start demanding that our friends, spouses, or parents give us the approval that only God can provide. When they fail to do so, we react in anger or hurt. The Bible teaches us that if God is our all-sufficient Source of security and approval, we no longer have to “thirst” for it from people. We can love others without needing them to validate our worth.

**RESPOND:** How would your relationships change if you stopped looking to people for the approval that God has already given you?

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## DAY 4

**READ:** “Trust in Yahweh with all your heart, and don’t lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” — Proverbs 3:5-6

**REFLECT:** We fight for control in relationships when we don’t trust that God is taking care of us. We try to manipulate circumstances or people to ensure our own comfort or safety. But a conduit doesn’t control the water; it simply channels it. When we surrender our need to be “in charge” of the outcome and trust the Source instead, the internal friction vanishes, and we are free to respond to others with grace rather than force.

**RESPOND:** In which specific relationship do you struggle most with the need to be in control? What would it look like to surrender that “battle” to the Lord today?

## DAY 5

**READ:** “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has punishment. He who fears is not made perfect in love.” — 1 John 4:18

**REFLECT:** Transformation in our relationships happens only when we return to the Source. “Perfect love” isn’t something we produce; it is something we receive from God. When we are confident in His infinite goodness toward us, we don’t have to hide in shame or fight for our own way. We can finally let His love flow through us to others, even to those who are difficult. His love clears the “clog” of fear and allows us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those around us.

**RESPOND:** If you were fully confident that God was your all-sufficient Source of security this week, how would you approach a difficult person or a recurring conflict differently?

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# housefires

## DAY 1

## WEEK 10

**READ:** “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” — Matthew 6:21

**REFLECT:** It is no coincidence that Jesus talked about money more than almost any other topic. He knew that money is the primary rival for our hearts. Our bank accounts often act as a “heart monitor,” revealing what we truly value and who we truly trust as our Source. If our resources are used only for self-preservation, it reveals a heart that is still trying to be its own provider.

**RESPOND:** If someone looked at your spending habits from the last month, what would they say is the most important thing in your life?

## DAY 2

**READ:** “He called him, and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give an accounting of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’” — Luke 16:2

**REFLECT:** The world views money through the lens of ownership, but the Bible views it through the lens of stewardship. Ownership says, “I earned this, so it belongs to me.” Stewardship says, “God provided this, so I am a manager for Him.” Friction occurs when we try to be a “reservoir” (hoarding for ourselves) instead of a “conduit” (channeling for God). When we realize we don’t actually own anything, the pressure of “having enough” begins to vanish.

**RESPOND:** How does the realization that you are a “manager” rather than an “owner” change the way you view your paycheck or your possessions?

## DAY 3

**READ:** “Charge those who are rich in this present world that they not be haughty, nor have their hope set on the uncertainty of riches, but on the living God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.” — 1 Timothy 6:17

**REFLECT:** We shouldn’t trust in money because it is not our security; it is a tool. When we set our hope on the “uncertainty of riches,” we become anxious and prone to hoarding. However, a steward understands that money is not the Source. We don’t have to be haughty when we have it or terrified when we don’t, because our hope is set on the living God who richly provides.

**RESPOND:** What is money currently “testing” in your life right now—is it testing your discipline, your generosity, or your tendency to worry?

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## DAY 4

**READ:** “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, so that you, always having all sufficiency in everything, may abound to every good work.” — 2 Corinthians 9:8

**REFLECT:** In the Bible, we learn that our only job is to ensure that what flows to us also flows through us. We aren't trying to pump water from an empty well; we are connected to an infinite Source. When we keep the "pipe" clear of selfishness, God is able to make His grace and provision abound. He provides enough for our "sufficiency" and extra for "every good work."

**RESPOND:** Is there an area of your finances where you feel like you are "clogging the pipe" with fear instead of letting God's provision flow through you to others?

## DAY 5

**READ:** “No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You can't serve both God and Mammon.” — Luke 16:13

**REFLECT:** Money is the ultimate test of our spiritual allegiance. It demands our time, our energy, and our devotion. We cannot be a clear conduit for God if we are a slave to our material desires. To manage your money is to ensure it stays in its place as a servant and never becomes your master. When we surrender our finances to the Holy Spirit, we stop being managed by our greed and start being led by His purpose.

**RESPOND:** As you head into our final lesson, what is one practical step you can take to show that God—not money—is the true Master of your life?

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# housefires

## DAY 1

## WEEK 11

**READ:** “Don’t be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God.” — Romans 12:2

**REFLECT:** To “conform” means to let the world squeeze you into its mold, clogging your life with its values, fears, and expectations. To be “transformed” is an inside-out process led by the Holy Spirit. God created you to be a unique original—a one-of-a-kind conduit for His glory. He didn’t design you to be a copy of the world, but to overflow with a purpose that only you can fulfill.

**RESPOND:** As you look back over this season, in what area do you feel the world’s “mold” (the pressure to fit in or be like everyone else) is still trying to hold you back?

## DAY 2

**READ:** “Brothers, I don’t regard myself as yet having laid hold, but one thing I do: forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before...” — Philippians 3:13

**REFLECT:** The friction we feel in our spiritual growth often comes from living in the “past tense.” We remain trapped by our old failures, past mistakes, or worldly labels. But transformation requires us to “forget what is behind.” We cannot stretch forward toward God’s high calling if we are still clutching the regrets of yesterday. God’s mercy is new every morning, and your conduit is being cleared for a fresh flow today.

**RESPOND:** What specific past failure or old “label” do you need to finally leave behind so you can move forward with a clear heart?

## DAY 3

**READ:** “I press on toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” — Philippians 3:14

**REFLECT:** Spiritual goals are not just “to-do lists” for self-improvement; they are statements of faith. When we set godly goals, we are stretching the conduit of our lives, making more room for the Holy Spirit to flow through us. We aren’t striving to reach a finish line in our own strength; we are straining forward to see how much of God’s “good, pleasing, and perfect will” can be released through our lives in the days ahead.

**RESPOND:** Why is it a spiritual discipline to actively align your personal goals with God’s plans rather than just “letting life happen”?



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## DAY 4

**READ:** “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You will be my witnesses... to the uttermost parts of the earth.” — Acts 1:8

**REFLECT:** The first disciples were transformed not by their own effort, but by the infilling of God's power at Pentecost. Peter went from a denier to a proclaimer; Thomas went from a doubter to a defender. This same Spirit is your Source today. You are not finishing this study to “try harder”; you are finishing to “yield deeper.” The power to live out your purpose comes entirely from the Source that dwells within you.

**RESPOND:** How does the reality that the Holy Spirit provides the power (the “How”) take the pressure off your own performance this week?

## DAY 5

**READ:** “‘For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,’ says Yahweh, ‘thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you hope and a future.’” — Jeremiah 29:11

**REFLECT:** A “faith goal” is an expression of what you believe God wants to accomplish through you. Because God has plans to give you a “hope and a future,” your life has a specific direction. As we move forward, we don’t just sit still as reservoirs; we act as active conduits, moving toward the specific works God has prepared for us. When we move in faith, we find that the Source provides everything we need for the journey.

**RESPOND:** Looking at the next year of your life, what is one “faith goal” you are setting that will require the Holy Spirit’s power to achieve?

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