



STUDY GUIDE – July 26, 2020

Message Title: Fire In My Bones
Even If
Teaching Pastor: Elijah Schiarelli

This study guide has been designed for Small Groups in mind, and can be used by individuals as well.

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

RAPID FIRE questions - one-word answers:

- Texting or talking?
- Favorite day of the week?
- Favorite city in U.S. besides the one you live in?
- Nickname your parents used to call you?
- How long does it take you to get ready?
- Scale of 1-10, how good of a driver are you?
- What age do you want to retire?
- Invisibility or super strength?
- Is it wrong for a vegetarian to eat animal crackers?
- Would you rather be very cold or very hot?

Pray:

Dear Lord, remind us that even in the uncertainty, you are in control. Help us to set aside all that is on our hearts and minds, so the truth of Your word can permeate every aspect of our being. Please enable us to go deeper in our understanding of who You are. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Get Started:

"God is not only worthy of our devotion because of what He has done. He is also deserving because of who He is." -Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

Read Jeremiah 5:22 and Psalms 139:6-18

- Is there a specific time in your own life that you came face to face with choosing to follow God for who He is over top of what He has done? What were the circumstances?
- How do you remind yourself of who God is when you are facing brokenness (i.e. spend time in creation, through music or prayer, etc.)?

Watch and Discuss video:

Pastor Elijah references the dual nature of the Lord's prayer, which recognizes **both** who God is **and** what He has done in equal parts. Try to set aside any familiarity you might have with this prayer and try to look at it with a fresh lens. Jesus could have taught us to pray in any way that He wanted, but these are the words that He *chose* to utter (out of all the words in existence).

Read Matthew 6:9-13. Recite together.

- Which part of the Lord's Prayer is Jesus drawing your attention to today?

Reflect and Commit:

"....Let's be honest here; political slings and arrows aside, we have to admit that it's been pretty easy to be a Christian in these United States, in the 21st century. We attend church freely. There are robust sub-cultures of music and media and festivals and conferences and accessories and even clothing to help forge our identities and declare our loyalties. We have access to tons of content – virtual, digital, hard copy. It's never been a problem to accumulate and assimilate the cultural trappings of what was needed to "be Christian". Go to church, send our kids to camp and mission trips, feed hungry people, make friends, celebrate rituals like weddings and funerals, etc; we freely did all the things we could think to do, as we discovered where God seemed to be working, where our energy was needed, how to be part of making the kingdom come to earth. It kept us busy. It kept us focused. And it kept us "good Christians". And then the rules changed; what "kept us" fell apart. And what remains? What does it mean to be a person of "faith" in these days?" -Pastor Beth Stoddard

- SO, what does it mean to be a person of "faith" in these days?

Read Daniel 3:14-18 and 1 Peter 1:6- 7

Imagine that it was you standing there before the king in the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Times are indeed unprecedented and hard right now, but this story is of persecution at a level that most of us have never known. Close your eyes for a minute of silence and really put yourself there (the sights, the sounds, the smell of smoke, the emotions...).

- Facing your own mortality, do you think you would have had the faith of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? Why or why not?

Pray:

Dear Lord, help us to stand in the comforting truth that You are still God. Please give us the strength to say, "even if You don't, I will still follow." Let us follow you God, not only because of what You can do, but because of who You are. Let your Word be in our hearts like a fire, a fire shut up in our bones, that we cannot contain. In Jesus' name. Amen.