



# VICTORY CHURCH

## Big Idea

Pastor Jeff Bender

When God is described in the Bible or doing something significant, fire is mentioned often: Moses and the burning bush, the fourth 'man' in the fire, pillar of fire by night guided the Israelites, Ezekiel, Daniel, and John the apostle's visions of Jesus, the tongues of fire at Pentecost, etc. Fire is associated with passion, energy, power. Those descriptors fit Jesus very well. "We have a God who is on fire for us. He saved us so that we could be on fire for Him" said Pastor Jeff Bender.

The message from Pastor Jeff Bender titled **On Fire For Jesus** begins with Jesus' parable of the ten virgins. "Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish." (Matthew 25:2) Five of the virgins were wise, that is, they planned ahead and prepared for the bridegroom coming. Five of the virgins were foolish, that is, not thinking ahead and were unprepared to meet the bridegroom. Are you prepared to meet Jesus?

To be on fire for Jesus we must first have the fire of God which comes from Jesus. To be on fire for God we need to spend time with the God on fire and keep our eyes on Jesus. Pastor Jeff explains more specific actions we can take to be on fire for Jesus.

God tells us that He is excited and thrilled to one day have His entire church join Him in a heavenly party! The invitations have been sent out. The banquet is prepared. Have you RSVP'd? In addition to a great church-wide party Jesus wants to meet with us and bless us each and every day!

## Discussion Questions

- In the parable of the 10 virgins in Matthew 25:1-8 what were the similarities and the differences between the virgins? What does the word "foolish" imply?
- What is meant by being on fire about something or someone? How is God on fire?
- Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you." (Matthew 25:10-12) Discuss what Pastor Jeff explained about the work "know". What is needed to really know someone? How well does Jesus know you?
- How can we stoke the fire of God in us and how can we dampen the fire of God in us?

## Prayer Focus

Thank God for providing moments filled with His presence. Ask God for wisdom and guidance as you reflect, prioritize, and organize your life with Jesus at the center. Ask God to surround you with spiritual authorities that can walk with you through a life intentionally focused on Christ and His purpose for your life.

## Next Steps

Begin thinking and praying about what God would have you do for the upcoming small group semester. Consider joining, co-leading, or leading a Group. Keep your eyes open for a good accountability partner or spiritual authority to invite into your life as you seek to live intentionally for Jesus.

## Leader Tip

Think of a time when you found joy in the middle of a difficult situation. Share how God enabled you to look beyond the situation and be prepared to focus on what really matters.