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## Sermon Discussion Guide

### Refiners Fire - Christian Lindbeck

11/20/22

#### Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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#### Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.
- What does the image of fire invoke in you?
- Share a fun or memorable moment involving fire!

#### Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
- Read:
  - Deuteronomy 4:24
  - Isaiah 6:1-8
  - Joel 2:1-3 and 2:30-31
  - Matthew 3:11-12
  - John 15:5-8
- What are all the different ways fire is used in these passages?
- Many of these passages reference things getting burned. List out the things that get burnt by fire.
- What do these passages communicate about God's power through the imagery of fire?

#### Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on the implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
- How do you think the original listeners would have reacted to the idea of fire in the John and Matthew passages?
- Why do you think God chooses to represent himself as fire?
  - In what ways do we see God acting as a sort of "fire" today?
- In what ways do we see the need for purifying fire in our world today?



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- On Sunday, Christian talked about how our culture has removed the language of evil and reduced our understanding of how it is at work today. What are some of the implications of thinking this way?

#### Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- What are the places in your life where you need to experience the refining fire of God?
  - How can you open yourself up to experience that?
- What is the good news for us and our world in knowing that God is a refining fire?
  - How can we share that good news with others?
- Where are some places of evil that you are personally experiencing or that are around our world that need the power of God? Pray for those things.

#### Time of Prayer