



**On Fire for Your City (Luke 19:41, Nehemiah 2)
September 24th, 2023**

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Being on fire starts with God's word

Then I said, "I will not make mention of Him, Nor speak anymore in His name." But *His word* was in my heart like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding *it* back, And I could not. **Jeremiah 20:9 NKJV**

God gives us a heart for the city

And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, *when wine was* before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. **Nehemiah 2:1 NKJV**

Therefore the king said to me, "Why *is* your face sad, since you *are* not sick? This *is* nothing but sorrow of heart." So I became dreadfully afraid, and said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, *lies* waste, and its gates are burned with fire?" **Nehemiah 2:2-3 NKJV**

Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it." **Nehemiah 2:4-5 NKJV**

Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, **Luke 19:41 NKJV**

God uses us to build His Kingdom

Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode. **Nehemiah 2:12 NKJV**

And I went out by night through the Valley Gate to the Serpent Well and the Refuse Gate, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were burned with fire. **Nehemiah 2:13 NKJV**

Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but *there was* no room for the animal under me to pass. **Nehemiah 2:14 NKJV**

Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we *are* in, how Jerusalem *lies* waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach." **Nehemiah 2:17 NKJV**

And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to *this* good work. **Nehemiah 2:18 NKJV**

A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon. Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain. **Psalms 127:1 NKJV**

This Week's [New Testament + Reading Plan](#):

1. *Galatians 6*
2. *Ephesians 1*
3. *Ephesians 2*
4. *Ephesians 3*
5. *Ephesians 4*
6. *Psalms 68*
7. *Prayer & Reflection*

September 24

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In this series, we will learn the story of Abraham and Sarah, plus all of their kids, and their grandkids! God had blessed Abraham with a huge family! We will learn of how special God made families.

Memory Verse: “God made families.” Genesis 1:26a (adapted for toddlers)

Heart of the Lesson: God Made Families, and Families Can Worship Together.

Parent Connect: Turn on some worship music and have a dance/worship party with your family! Encourage them to use their shakers or other instruments you may have and remind them that “God made families and families can worship together”.



In this series, we will learn how trusting in the Lord will lead us on the right path. We will see how Joseph went through many trials that God turned from bad into good!

Memory Verse: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all ways, submit to Him and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6

Heart of the Lesson: Joseph Saves His Family – Genesis 40-46

Parent Connect: Today we learned of Joseph saving his family from hunger during the famine. Joseph shared with his family lots of grain so they would have food. Make a treat with your friends or family, then go around to each person and share a part of it with them. Check out the link for easy to make, fun to share snacks! <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/641481540687523637/>



When Jesus comes to live in your heart, it changes you. His love lights a fire inside that we can't contain. His fire is contagious. It wants to grow and burn brighter and brighter. In this series, we will discover what it looks like to be on fire for God and how we can share this powerful love in our neighborhoods to the ends of the earth.

Memory Verse: His word burns in my heart like a fire. It's like a fire in my bones! I am worn out trying to hold it in! I can't do it!" Jeremiah 20:9b

Heart of the Lesson: On Fire For Your City - Matthew 5:23a; Mark 4:18-20; Mark 10:45

Parent Connect: Go to visitgracechurch.com/outreach and scroll down to our local partners. Pray for them and their ministries and then go serve with one. Two great ones to do with kids are Church Under the Bridge and Freedom Fire!



During our You Asked For It series, we will be answering questions that YOU, the students of G56, have asked! In small groups, you will discover what the Bible says about the question, and then discuss with the whole group what you found out!

Memory Verse: “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8

Heart of the Lesson: How do I know if heaven is real and where is it? Is it possible to leave hell? John 14:2-3, Job 15:15, 2 Peter 3:7, 10, 13, Isaiah 51:6, Jude 1:6, Matthew 25:41, Revelation 20:14, Revelation 21:1

Parent Connect: How does knowing heaven and hell are real affect how you live today? Discuss as a family.

SPECIAL NEEDS ADULTS

ON FIRE

Sharing the Good News with our neighbors, city, & world



You might hear people say they are “on fire” when they are really passionate about something. If you were literally on fire, you would respond immediately! Being figuratively “on fire” is similar. When we are “on fire” for Jesus, we respond immediately by sharing His love with others! This series, we’re looking at what it means to be “on fire” for Jesus, and what that means for our neighbors, our city, and our world!

Memory Verse: “But then your message burns in my heart. It’s like a fire deep inside my bones. I’m tired of holding it in. In fact, I can’t.” Jeremiah 20:9b (NIRV)

Heart of the Lesson: If you’re on fire for God, you’ll see your city differently (Luke 19:41, Nehemiah 2)

Parents/Caregivers:

- What did God compel Nehemiah to do?
- Did God help Nehemiah along the way?
- Do you feel burdened/saddened by a need in Kansas City or somewhere else in the world?
- How do you want to serve in Kansas City?