

Life is a slow burn. Waiting is not a punishment; it's a process. God is not delaying. He's developing you. He is not leaving you; He's loving you. Your Father wants to make use of every moment of your waiting.

by transforming you through it.

Week 1

Theme: *"Is My Faith Still Ignited?"*

In life's seasons of waiting, it's easy to feel like the flame of our faith is flickering. We often imagine faith as a blazing fire—bold, visible, and powerful—but reality sometimes feels more like a smoldering wick: quiet, dim, uncertain. In these moments, we wonder if we still believe as strongly as we once did, or if we've somehow drifted too far to find our way back. The question, *"Is my faith still ignited?"* becomes a deeply personal one, surfacing not in triumph but in weariness, loss, and vulnerability.

Yet Scripture reassures us that God is especially close in these very moments. Isaiah 42:3 declares that God will not snuff out a smoldering wick. That means He's not looking for explosive displays of devotion—He's looking for hearts willing to be honest, open, and surrendered. Whether you feel like a blazing torch or a dying ember, your story is not over. God doesn't discard fragile faith—He tends it, protects it, and gently breathes it back to life. His mercies are new every morning, and they are enough to carry us through whatever season we face.

Rather than willing ourselves back to a previous version of strength, we're invited to depend on the power of the Holy Spirit in the here and now. God isn't asking for perfection; He's inviting us to participate in the "slow burn"—a lifelong journey of trusting Him step by step, even when the fire doesn't roar. By surrendering our weakness, our uncertainty, and even our doubt, we make space for God's presence to do what only He can do: revive us. The waiting isn't wasted. It's where faith is refined.

Key Scriptures:

- **Isaiah 42:3** — *"A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out."*
- **Psalms 102:3** — *"My days vanish like smoke; my bones burn like glowing embers."*

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- **2 Timothy 1:5-7** — *“Fan into flame the gift of God... for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”*

Discussion Questions:

1. Reflecting on the Flame

- Have you ever had a moment where you wondered, *“Is my faith still lit?”* What was happening in your life at the time?
- What does a “smoldering wick” season look like for you?

2. The Illusion of Going Back

- Have you ever felt the desire to revert to a former version of yourself? Why is it tempting to look back, and how does God help you stay present?
- Why do you think God calls us *forward* rather than *backward*, even when the past feels safer?

3. Faith That Endures

- Read Isaiah 42:3. How does this promise speak to those who feel weak, weary, or fragile in faith?
- What would it look like to trust that Jesus won't extinguish your smoldering wick, but instead fan it back to flame?

4. Fan the Flame

- In 2 Timothy 1:6-7, Paul encourages Timothy to “fan into flame” the gift of God. What does that practically look like in your life?
- Are there any disciplines or reminders that help you stay spiritually aligned when the flame of faith feels dim?

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5. Perspective in the Waiting

- The Israelites complained in the wilderness while Jesus obeyed his wilderness temptation. What made the difference?
- In what ways have your feelings or circumstances distorted your view of God's promises?

Prayer Focus:

Invite each person to share one area where they feel their faith is smoldering. Then, pray Isaiah 42:3 over each other—that God would meet them gently, and restore strength and flame.

Challenge of the Week:

Take time each morning to acknowledge one “new mercy” (Lamentations 3:23) that God is providing in your life. Journal it or share it with someone in the group.