

Discussion Guide

January 18, 2026

The Reset - Fresh Fire - Week 3

“Walled In”

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Main Idea

God does not simply reset our habits or refine our goals. He resets our hearts by drawing us into His presence. In seasons of renewal, the Lord reminds His people that His fire is not meant to be observed from a distance but lived within. As God surrounds His people with His presence, He removes what does not belong, protects what He has formed, and empowers what He has called. This matters now because many believers are standing near the fire without allowing it to shape them. Spiritual formation happens when we surrender control and trust God to be both our covering and our glory.

Anchor Verse: I will give them hearts that recognize me as the LORD. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me wholeheartedly. (*Jeremiah 24:7 NLT*).

Anchor Passage

“Then I looked up, and there before me was a man with a measuring line in his hand. I asked, ‘Where are you going?’ He answered me, ‘To measure Jerusalem, to find out how wide and how long it is.’ While the angel who was speaking to me was leaving, another angel came to meet him and said to him: ‘Run, tell that young man, “Jerusalem will be a city without walls because of the great number of people and animals in it. And I myself will be a wall of fire around it,” declares the LORD, “and I will be its glory within.”’”

(Zechariah 2:1–5 NIV)

1. The Fire of God Removes What Does Not Belong

God's fire is not destructive toward His people but restorative within them. When the Lord surrounds us with His presence, He begins refining what competes with His holiness and purpose. This process often feels uncomfortable because it confronts habits, attachments, and fears we have learned to protect. Many assume refinement is punishment, but Scripture presents it as preparation for greater faithfulness. Christ remains at the center because He alone defines what is holy and blameless before God. The fire reveals what must be released so that we can walk fully in what God has already chosen for us.

Scripture: Ephesians 1:4, Zechariah 13:9, 1 Peter 1:7, HEB

Discussion: Reflect on areas of your life where resistance to change may be limiting spiritual growth. Consider how discomfort can be misunderstood as God's absence rather than His refining work. Where have you seen God use pressure or testing to clarify what truly matters? How does surrendering control challenge your view of spiritual maturity? In what ways might allowing God to remove certain things actually be an act of trust rather than loss?

2. The Fire of God Surrounds and Protects His People

God's presence does not only refine; it also secures. When the Lord declares Himself a wall of fire, He promises protection that is not dependent on human strength or strategy. This protection often includes boundaries we do not initially welcome, such as closed doors or delayed answers. Many confuse God's protection with unrestricted freedom, yet Scripture shows that safety is found in dwelling where He leads. Christ stands as our refuge and fortress, guarding us from both visible threats and unseen dangers. Living within God's fire means trusting His wisdom even when His protection comes through restraint.

Scripture: Psalm 37:3, Psalm 91:1–2, 1 Corinthians 10:13

Discussion: Think about times when God said no or slowed you down, and how that shaped your faith. How do you typically respond when God's protection limits your preferences? What does it look like to trust God's covering when outcomes are uncertain? In what ways have you equated blessing with ease rather than security in His will? How might your understanding of protection change if you viewed boundaries as evidence of care?

When we LOCK IN and LEAN IN to relationship with God, then we become WALLED IN by the Fire of God.

**Hebrew 12:29 (ESV)
For our God is a consuming fire.**

3. The Fire of God Empowers Purpose Through Surrender

God's fire does not consume us without giving something back. As we surrender to His presence, He supplies strength that does not originate from our own ability. Purpose is not discovered by striving

harder but by yielding more deeply to the Spirit's work. Many seek power without surrender, yet Scripture makes clear that lasting impact flows from dependence on God. Christ-centered surrender allows God to draw purpose even from seasons that feel reduced or broken. The fire that refines and protects also equips us to walk forward with confidence rooted in His Spirit.

Scripture: Isaiah 40:29, Zechariah 4:6

Discussion: Consider where you may be relying on personal strength rather than spiritual dependence. How does surrender challenge cultural ideas of success and control? Reflect on areas where weakness has revealed God's power more clearly. What does it mean to trust God to bring purpose out of what feels like loss or limitation? How can surrender become an active posture rather than passive resignation?

SUMMARY

God's fire is not an occasional experience but a sustaining presence. When He surrounds His people, He refines their hearts, secures their lives, and strengthens their calling. Spiritual formation requires faithfulness in surrender, not control over outcomes. The Lord remains both the wall around us and the glory within us. As we live within His presence, we grow into who He has already declared us to be.

CALL TO ACTION

21 Days of Prayer & Fasting resources are found on hopecity.com/21days

- Spend intentional time this week asking God to reveal what He is refining in your life and respond with obedience.
 - Identify one boundary or closed door you have resisted and choose to trust God's protection in it.
 - Commit to a daily rhythm that places you fully in God's presence rather than near it.
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GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Guided Posture Prayer

Invite the group into a guided reflection moment. Ask participants to silently write down one area where they sense God refining them and one area where they need to trust His protection. After a few minutes, invite volunteers to share if they are comfortable. Close by reading Philippians 1:6 aloud together, reinforcing confidence in God's ongoing work.