

# FORGED

---

EST.



33 AD

REFINED IN THE FIRE

---







# FALL CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

---

- September 08..... **Week 1:** Forged for a Purpose.....  
Memory Verse: *Ephesians 2:8-10*
- September 15..... **Week 2:** The Refiner's Fire.....  
Memory Verse: *1 Peter 5:10*
- September 22..... **Week 3:** A Solid Foundation.....  
Memory Verse: *John 15:5*
- September 29..... **Week 4:** Hammering in Habits.....  
Memory Verse: *Hebrews 12:11*
- October 06..... **Week 5:** Time-Tested Tools.....  
Memory Verse: *1 Timothy 4:8*
- October 13..... **Week 6:** Together in the Furnace.....  
Memory Verse: *Galatians 6:2*
- October 20..... **Week 7:** Tempered Fortitude.....  
Memory Verse: *Psalms 116:7*

# Life Group Commitment

In order to get the most out of this study and create an opportunity for God to work in our hearts and lives, we will make the following five commitments for this six week church-wide campaign:

## 1. I will make this group a priority.

I will do my best to **be present** at life group every week. Even when I may not feel like it; I am making this group a disciplined habit for this particular season. I will not give in to easy excuses.

## 2. I will arrive on time and prepared.

I will **do my best** to arrive promptly at the agreed upon meeting time. I will have engaged with this past Sunday's message and any homework assignments before arriving to life group.

## 3. I will be an active participant.

I will be willing to answer the questions and discuss. I am willing to be open and vulnerable with the group. I also commit to allow others to share and **not dominate** the conversation.

## 4. I will respect the privacy of others.

I understand that whatever is shared in the group should remain inside the group. I **refuse** to participate in gossip or slander.

## 5. I will pray for and encourage others.

I will **pray for** those in my life group during the week and look for opportunities to build them up with love and encouraging words.

SEE IT IS I WHO CREATED  
THE BLACKSMITH WHO FANS  
THE COALS INTO FLAME  
AND FORGES A WEAPON  
FIT FOR ITS WORK.

=ISAIAH 54:16



# FORGED FOR A PURPOSE

FORGED: refined in the fire | Week 1 - Sept. 08

---



## MEMORY VERSE \_\_\_\_\_

**NIV Ephesians 2:10** -- *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*



## GROWING CLOSER TOGETHER \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) If you are new to the group, spend a couple minutes sharing your life story. Where are you from? What brought you to Buffalo? How long have you been following Jesus? etc.
- 2) What is a favorite hobby of yours? How did you get into it?



## MESSAGE REFLECTION \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) What was something in this Sunday's message that stood out to you, inspired you, made you think, or challenged you?
- 2) What's the difference between being a "Christian" and being a "disciple"? Which are there more of in our society?
- 3) Why do you think many believers never really become disciples?
- 4) PW said we all start out "resistant" to God wanting to shape us. What were some specific ways you were "stuck in your ways" that God needed to change in you?
- 5) How might you be a better person if you submitted to the process of discipleship? How might your marriage or family change? How could our community or the world change?



## GOING DEEPER \_\_\_\_\_

READ – 2 Timothy 1:1-5 together

- 1) The Apostle Paul calls the young pastor Timothy: “my son”. Who else was instrumental in Timothy’s discipleship?
- 2) Who was your “**spiritual parent**” in your own faith journey?

READ – 2 Timothy 1:6-12 together

- 3) What is Timothy supposed to do with God’s gift according to verse 6? What does that mean for us as followers of Jesus?
- 4) What are the **three big gifts** the Holy Spirit gives us according to verse 7? Which of those is most helpful for discipleship? Which of them do you personally need more of in your life?
- 5) What is Timothy encouraged to do in verse 8 with his mentor? How does that make you feel?
- 6) In verse 9 it says that not only are we saved **from** something, but we are called **to** something. What purpose are we called toward?
- 7) If Timothy is Paul’s apprentice; what should he **become** according to verse 11?
- 8) What can we learn about discipleship from this passage written from a mature follower of Jesus to his apprentice?



## LIVING IT OUT \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) What one specific thing that you think God wants to change in you over the next six months?
- 2) What is one specific step you could take to become more of a disciple of Jesus rather than simply a believer?

# THE REFINER'S FIRE

FORGED: refined in the fire | Week 2 - Sept. 15

---



## MEMORY VERSE \_\_\_\_\_

**NIV 1 Peter 5:10** – *“And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast.”*



## GROWING CLOSER TOGETHER \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Share a story of a time that you broke something, wrecked something, or lost something.
- 2) What was the worst burn you've ever experienced? Share the story of what happened.



## MESSAGE REFLECTION \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) What was something in this Sunday's message that stood out to you, inspired you, made you think, or challenged you?
- 2) Pressures often reveal what our character is made of and where we need to grow. What frequent pressures **test** your integrity?
- 3) Which is easier for you: learning **information** or practicing **application**?
- 4) Is there a moment or a season in your life where you endured hardship and yet today you can see how God used that to mold you into the person you are today?
- 5) Are you a person who spends regular time **reflecting** on the “status of your heart”? Why or why not?





## GOING DEEPER \_\_\_\_\_

READ – 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 & Matthew 7:24-27 together

- 1) What is something that jumps out at you from these passages that is unique, encouraging, interesting or challenging?
- 2) How is living the Christian life like being a *builder*?
- 3) What is the most important building material for the Christian? Why?
- 4) Why is it vital to build your Christian life and the kingdom with quality work? What is the danger of being lazy or cutting corners while building the kingdom?
- 5) Both houses in these passages reveal a day of reckoning for the houses built – one when Jesus comes back and the other when trials, hardships, or suffering hits. What principle can we learn?
- 6) What is one way you can prepare for future moments of hardship, suffering and trials?



## LIVING IT OUT \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Read the story of Joseph (**Genesis 37-50**). Pay attention to the times that Joseph was tested or experienced hardship. Underline or highlight what character he exhibited in those moments. Ask God to help you to build quality faith that will withstand future hardship.
- 2) Read the story of the prodigal son (**Luke 15:11-32**). Notice how the hardship the younger son experiences (due to bad choices and natural disaster) was the catalyst that drove him home to his Father. Ask God to use the difficulties, trials and hardships you will face in your life to refine, mold and shape you.

# A SOLID FOUNDATION

FORGED: refined in the fire | Week 3 - Sept. 22

---



## MEMORY VERSE \_\_\_\_\_

**NIV John 15:5** - *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*



## GROWING CLOSER TOGETHER \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) If you could meet any living person, who would you pick and why?
- 2) Tell about a time you ran into something solid and/or stationary. What happened to you as a result?



## MESSAGE REFLECTION \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) What was something in this Sunday's message that stood out to you, inspired you, made you think, or challenged you?
- 2) What is one part of God's character that you love the most?
- 3) Do you find it easy or challenging to regularly spend time alone with God? Why do you think that is?
- 4) When do you feel the **most connected** with your Savior? What are you doing? How do you get there?
- 5) How would we approach following Jesus differently when we switch from: *God **owes** me* – to - *God **owns** me*?
- 6) What is something specific in your life or character that you would like to be **conformed** to the character of God?



## GOING DEEPER

---

READ – **Colossians 3:1-17** together

- 1) What is something that jumps out at you from these passage that is unique, encouraging, interesting or challenging?
- 2) What is the difference between what Paul is telling his readers to do in verse 1 and what he is telling his readers to do in verse 2? How are they the same?
- 3) Share one practical way one can **pursue the things of heaven** – intellectually, spiritually, or both.
- 4) What does it mean that “...*your life is now hidden with Christ in God*”? (see vs. 3-4)
- 5) How does identifying with Christ’s death change your relationship with sin? What are the sins you must avoid that are listed in verses 5-9?
- 6) What is one new way of thinking or acting that should emerge in the life of “God’s chosen people” as shown in verses 10-14? Share how God has developed one of these in your life.
- 7) Why does consistent gratitude and thankfulness show evidence that you are in Christ?



## LIVING IT OUT

---

- 1) Take time to be in God’s presence this week. Don’t be concerned about *doing*, just **be present with God**. Perhaps take a walk, pray, take time to notice and thank God for his creation, journal, read your Bible without an agenda, etc.
- 2) Read and meditate on Psalm 23 and Psalm 91 this week. Thank God for his protecting, refreshing, comforting, and saving nature.

# HAMMERING IN HABITS

FORGED: refined in the fire | Week 4 - Sept. 29

---



## MEMORY VERSE \_\_\_\_\_

**NIV Hebrews 12:11** – *“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”*



## GROWING CLOSER TOGETHER \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) What is a personal “pet peeve” of yours?
- 2) Which Olympic sport seems the most difficult **for you** to train for?  
Which Olympic sport seems the easiest **for you** to train for?



## MESSAGE REFLECTION \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) What was something in this Sunday’s message that stood out to you, inspired you, made you think, or challenged you?
- 2) PW said; ***we’re all being disciplined by someone.*** Who or what is forming people in our culture? Who is disciplining our children?
- 3) If *I am becoming my habits* – do you like who you are becoming?  
What are some bad habits in your life that you need to replace?
- 4) What are the **cues** that trigger your bad habits?
- 5) **Who** does God want you to become? What needs to change?
- 6) What **habits** do you need to start training to be that person?

(WRITE) \_\_\_\_\_



## GOING DEEPER \_\_\_\_\_

READ – Titus 2:11-14 together

- 1) What is something that jumps out at you from this passage that is unique, encouraging, interesting or challenging?
- 2) Salvation is possible by the grace of God (vs 11). What does salvation save you from? What does salvation save you to?
- 3) What is something that **clearly** a follower of Jesus must say no to? Share something that is “**not so clear**” for a follower of Jesus to say no to.
- 4) What is a habit or boundary you have established to help you say “no” to “ungodliness and worldly passions?”
- 5) In verse 12, Paul urges Christians to live lives that are inwardly, outwardly, and upwardly righteous in this world. Which of these three do you find most success in? Why? Which of these is most difficult for you to find success in? Why?
- 6) When it comes to disciplining yourself toward a more holy life, how does **hope** make a difference in that effort?
- 7) Keeping this passage in mind, what is one way you can cultivate an eagerness to do good?



## LIVING IT OUT \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Choose something difficult to accomplish this week. It doesn't have to be spiritual (but it can be). Thank God for helping you to accomplish it and be reminded that you can do hard things.
- 2) What is one **habit** or discipline that you need to begin practicing that you know will help you become more like Jesus? Pray about it. Write it down. Ask someone to keep you accountable. Begin developing that habit.

# THE TIME-TESTED TOOLS

FORGED: refined in the fire | Week 5 - Oct. 06

---



## MEMORY VERSE \_\_\_\_\_

**NIV 1 Timothy 4:8** – *“For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”*



## GROWING CLOSER TOGETHER \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) What is one app or tool you use regularly that is very helpful in your day-to-day life?
- 2) Share an example of something that you are proud of which required a lot of time, effort, discipline, and self-control.



## MESSAGE REFLECTION \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) What was something in this Sunday's message that stood out to you, inspired you, made you think, or challenged you?
- 2) Is **studying scripture** an easy or difficult habit for you? Why?
- 3) Is **prayer** an easy or difficult habit for you? Why?
- 4) Is **confession** an easy or difficult habit for you? Why?
- 5) Is **contemplation** an easy or difficult habit for you? Why?
- 6) Is **fasting** an easy or difficult habit for you? Why?
- 7) What other spiritual disciplines or practices do you have in your life that are shaping your heart in a positive way?



## GOING DEEPER \_\_\_\_\_

### Reading/Studying Scripture

READ **Jeremiah 15:16, Timothy 2:15, Romans 12:2** together

- 1) What is a benefit of reading and studying scripture?
- 2) What is one temptation you should be aware of when you study scripture (see **John 5:39-40**)?

### Prayer

READ **Philippians 4:6-7, Matthew 6:6-13, Ephesians 6:18** together

- 3) Identify a characteristic of or reason for prayer from these verses.
- 4) What kind of prayer comes easiest for you? What is a more challenging type of prayer for you?

### Scripture Meditation/Memorization

READ **Psalms 119:11, Matthew 4:1-11, Psalm 1:1-3** together

- 5) What is a benefit of meditating on/memorizing God's word?
- 6) Share your favorite Bible verse or passage with the group.

### Fasting

READ **Matthew 6:16-18, Acts 14:23, Matthew 4:4** together

- 7) What is a reason for fasting according to these verses?
- 8) What warning is given to the Israelites in **Isaiah 58:1-7**, in regard to fasting? What should you be careful with regarding any discipline?



## LIVING IT OUT \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Choose one of the disciplines listed above (or another one from the message) to focus on and practice this week. Don't simply add it to your to-do list. Instead make it a moment to draw near to our personal, loving, and awesome God.
- 2) Read **Psalms 9:9-10 & Psalm 139:1-6** and reflect on God's character and relationship with and toward you.

# TOGETHER IN THE FURNACE

FORGED: refined in the fire | Week 6 - Oct. 13

---



## MEMORY VERSE \_\_\_\_\_

**NIV Galatians 6:2** – *“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”*



## GROWING CLOSER TOGETHER \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Who is your favorite team of all time? Why are they your favorite?
- 2) Share a favorite memory you have of you and one of your closest friends growing up.



## MESSAGE REFLECTION \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) What was something in this Sunday’s message that stood out to you, inspired you, made you think, or challenged you?
- 2) Are friendships easy for you or difficult? Why do you think that is?
- 3) How important is **community** in the journey of following Jesus?
- 4) Do you have anyone in your life that can handle when you are *“hot & gooey”*? Someone you can be vulnerable and honest with?
- 5) Share about someone who really impacted your life for the better.
- 6) Share about someone who challenged you or corrected you, but in the long run it made you a better person or better follower of Jesus.





## GOING DEEPER \_\_\_\_\_

READ – 1 Thessalonians 5:9-15 together

- 1) What is something that jumps out at you from this passage that is unique, encouraging, interesting or challenging?
- 2) What do verses nine and ten reveal about God's desire for communion with his people?
- 3) What is the difference between encouraging someone and building them up? Why does Paul command the Thessalonians to do both in verse 11?
- 4) Share about someone who has built you up and/or encouraged you in the Lord.
- 5) What are the seven marks of healthy Christian community as recorded in verses 13-15?
- 6) Share which one of these the Holy Spirit has refined most in you. Share one that you need more refinement in from the Holy Spirit.



## LIVING IT OUT \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) If you don't currently have close brothers or sisters in the Lord, ask God to help provide for you in this area. *It may mean you have to swallow your pride and reach out to someone first!*
- 2) If you have people in your life who encourage, inspire, and challenge you in your faith. Thank the Lord for them. Send them a text or note to thank them for their godly friendship.

# TEMPERED FORTITUDE

FORGED: refined in the fire | Week 7 - Oct. 20

---



## MEMORY VERSE \_\_\_\_\_

**NIV Psalm 116:7** – *“Return to your rest, my soul, for the Lord has been good to you.”*



## GROWING CLOSER TOGETHER \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) What are your quirks when you sleep? (e.g. fan or no fan, nightlight, prefer cool/warm, side sleeper/back sleeper, CPAP machine, tv on, etc.)
- 2) If you were told to spend this Saturday doing nothing but **resting**, what would that look like for you?



## MESSAGE REFLECTION \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) What was something in this Sunday’s message that stood out to you, inspired you, made you think, or challenged you?
- 2) Share about a time in your life that you felt burned out.
- 3) Why is **resting** so difficult in our culture?
- 4) What’s the difference between **tired** and **depleted**? What are some things that restore you when you are depleted?
- 5) Often the road to growth is not doing more, but doing less.

Are you a person that has trouble saying **“no”**? What’s really going on behind that response?

- 6) What *specifically* could you do to shift from more complexity and hurry to simplicity and rest?



## GOING DEEPER \_\_\_\_\_

READ – **Psalm 46** together

- 1) What is something that jumps out at you from this passage that is unique, encouraging, interesting or challenging?
- 2) How does the truth conveyed in verse one help set the tone for the rest of the passage?
- 3) Talk about what **a refuge** is. If applicable, share how God has been your refuge recently.
- 4) How do verses two and three describe chaos? What are the chaotic elements in your life?
- 5) What is one of the benefits of **a fortress**? How has God been a fortress in your life?
- 6) Why are you commanded to “be still” in verse 10? Do you think most people struggle taking time to be still? Why or why not?
- 7) Why should being still (and resting) go hand-in-hand with your knowing God?



## LIVING IT OUT \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Be intentional about resting this week. Put it on the calendar. Do something that refreshes you and helps your soul to rest (*But don't use technology!*)
- 2) Make a list of things you know about God and what he's done in your life. Thank Him. Rest in his goodness.











SUMMIT CHURCH SMALL GROUP RESOURCES