

Youth Discussion Guide

The Essentials: Fire | For the week of May 24 - 30, 2020

Watch our Fresh Word Friday on our Instagram page **@pearlsideyouth** for context of today's discussion.

Main thought and scripture:

As Christ followers, God has given us a purpose and a mission to make disciples. Although it is a simple mission, it is a difficult one. In order to make disciples, we have to first be a disciple of Christ. The Bible calls us to surrender, to forgive, to put others before ourselves, and to even love our enemies. If we do this on our **own strength**, chances are we will fail and/or give up. But God **promises us power** to do those very things through the Holy Spirit.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8 NIV)

The Holy Spirit empowers us to live as disciples of Christ and to make disciples. As we are connected to Jesus, the Holy Spirit is able to work in us as well as through us to help change the lives of others.

"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me." (John 15:4 NLT)

As we fill ourselves with the right fuel by 1) reading the Bible and praying, 2) staying connected in small groups and other meaningful relationships with people who point us to Jesus, and 3) being empowered by the Holy Spirit to work in and through us, we're able to stay on mission to make disciples. These "essentials" are necessary not just during times of crisis, but for everyday life as followers of Christ.

Discussion Questions:

- What stood out to you from the main passages and thought above?
- Where do you find yourself struggling to do things on your own strength instead of relying on the power of the Holy Spirit?
- What are some ways that we can fill ourselves daily with the Holy Spirit?

Prayer Points:

- Pray for each other to stay connected to God by being consistent with reading the Bible, praying, staying connected with other Christ followers, and allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us.
- Pray for continued protection for our state as we begin to reopen things up again.