

Lesson 10 / May 4, 2008

# On Fire!

for use as

## STEP 1

Lesson 10

### Focus:

Don't try to be a Christian by yourself.

Lesson 10

### Bible Basis:

Acts 2:41-47;  
1 Corinthians 12:12-18

Students will discuss teamwork.

There are many fun types of fires: Campfires. Candle flames on a chocolate fudge birthday cake. A warm and toasty fire in the fireplace when it's frigid outside.

But have you ever seen a wildfire? People living in Sierra Madre had a front row seat this past weekend. Wildfires raged in the mountainous terrain, making it difficult to get to it and put it out. It consumed about 400 acres (17,424,000 feet) by last Sunday, making a slow and dangerous crawl toward the city. Thousands of people started evacuating their homes. It hadn't touched any homes yet, but as of Sunday night the fire was only 5% contained and spreading. By Wednesday, the fire was beginning to be contained, but firefighter forces had increased to over 1,000 from 700.

**Have you ever accidentally caught something on fire? Tell us about it. What did you do? How scary was it?**

If you've ever seen something catch on fire (like curtains or your hair), then you know it can get out of control pretty fast.

In Sierra Madre, city officials were asleep when the fire started. So, when the word got out, city officials held a midnight meeting to come up with a plan. They declared the city in a state of emergency. Six hours later they had built a task force including emergency workers from the Red Cross, 400 firefighters on the ground, 2 helicopters, 3 air tankers, and 500 logistic and operations people.

**The city official's first action was to hold a meeting. Why didn't they just go out and fight the fire instead?** *(It would be chaotic without a plan. They had to combat this as a team.)*

Let's imagine the scene. It's 6 a.m. You just woke up to eat your Pop Tart, and you see fire in the distance. But you also see a team in action.

**What were the Red Cross workers doing?** *(Feeding and housing the over 1,000 people who had to flee from their homes.)*

Lesson 10  
**Memory Verse**

If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

—1 Corinthians 12:26-27

**What about the firefighters on the ground? What were their jobs?**

*(Creating backfires, digging trenches, putting out the fire, protecting homes and people, finding hot spots, and stopping new fires, etc.)*

**What about the pilots flying the helicopters?** *(Rescue. Communication—*

*seeing if any of the firefighters needed help; letting firefighters and air tank pilots know where to go; alerting team to progress of fire, etc.)*

They were all doing different things at different places (on the ground, in the air, at the shelters), but they were still working together. Some performed exhausting dangerous physical labor, while others used their brains to connect the dots (logistics) so that everybody knew where to go and what to do. Others helped keep panic to a minimum. When a fire is raging and black smoke is hovering overhead, it can be a little scary. One woman said this: “People were panicked and running and throwing stuff into their cars and screaming for loved ones they couldn’t find . . . I started to get scared.” That is where the rest of the team pitched in. They found families a safe place to stay, fixed food, or directed traffic to keep panicked residents from creating bedlam.

**Of all of these, which was the most important job?** *(Answers will vary, but each of the jobs were equally important. They all had a common goal: Keep the people and city of Sierra Madre safe.)*

**What do you think will be the result of this teamwork?** *(Devastation of the fire slowed, people saved from harm, and stopping the fire completely.)*

In the next portion of this lesson, we’ll study another great example of teamwork, the church. Maybe you’ve never stopped to think that ministers, missionaries, teachers—okay, all Christians, are working together for a common goal. We are, and you are an important part!

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your *High School Teacher’s Guide*; Step 4 appears below.)

Resources:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-fire28apr28,0,6058002.story>

Los Angeles Times, 1,000 People Evacuated Near Sierra Madre Wildfire

[http://cityofsierramadre.com/index.php?mod=city\\_article&id=74](http://cityofsierramadre.com/index.php?mod=city_article&id=74)

City of Sierra Madre’s Emergency Response to Residents

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/24367590>

Crews Start to Contain L.A.-area Fire

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## On Fire!

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**STEP 4**

**Lesson 10**  
**Focus:**

Don't try to be a  
Christian by yourself.

**Lesson 10**  
**Bible Basis:**

Acts 2:41-47;  
1 Corinthians 12:12-18

**Materials needed:**

- a bucket filled with strips of newspaper, that you hide before class starts

Read, or have a student read the following Bible passage:

**R**They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47)

**This was the New Testament church in action. Does this look like today's church? What is different? What is the same?**

**According to Acts 2, there were awesome results that took place when people worked together. What are they?** (*No one is in need, they were friends, they enjoyed each other's company, people were saved.*)

One benefit for the New Testament church is that it grew. This was a different kind of fire. The message spread, sometimes slow, but sometimes really fast—like the day 3,000 people decided to follow Christ. People were on fire for God!

**What were some different things people did in Acts 2:42-47?** (*Some were teachers, some made bread, some sold items to raise money, some prayed, others led singing, some took care of the new people . . .*)

Take the bucket from a hiding place (with the strips of newspaper in the bucket). Let's pretend that it has rained for four days straight. The roof has a leak and all of a sudden the ceiling bursts! (Throw the bucket of "water" at the students.) We'd have a mess!

**If the ceiling really did collapse and buckets of water poured into the room, what is the first thing that you would do?**

Lesson 10  
Memory  
Verse

If one part suffers,  
every part suffers with  
it; if one part is  
honored, every part  
rejoices with it. Now  
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Christ, and each one of  
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—1 Corinthians 12:26-27

Some of you would grab a mop or paper towels and start cleaning. Others would move chairs. Some would get towels for those who are wet, while others would find people to help fix the ceiling. Each of us would respond in a different way because we have different gifts.

Sometimes we don't see the gifts as a good thing. Maybe you've thought someone was bossy, when really they are natural leaders. What about that person who is always cheerleading others—you know, the perky one? Have you considered that their spiritual role is to encourage people?

Read, or have a student read the following Bible passage:

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. (Rom. 12:4-8)

**Think of someone that you know that has the heart of a servant. Name one person. A leader? What about someone who is compassionate and cares about the needs of others?**

**If your gift is teaching, does that mean you can forget the others—like mercy, giving, or serving?**

Bzzt! The answer is no; but what it does mean is that if we all work as a team then we are really strong—together.

Have the students read Romans 12:4-8 in their Bible privately, and then pray and have them ask God to begin to reveal to them their part and value in the body of Christ.

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