International Fellowship of Christians
For Christ and His Kingdom · Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Home Fellowship Outline
WEEK 20 · 2026

2026 THEME
Transformed to Bear Much Fruit

THIS WEEK'S STUDY

Fire and the Queen

Exodus 13:21 · Judges 4:4–9 · Matthew 25:1–13 · Luke 10:38–42 · Acts 10:38

I The Fire of God

Scripture reveals God as a consuming fire whose presence guides, protects, and empowers His people. In the wilderness, God led Israel through a pillar of fire (Exodus 13:21), reminding them that His presence was with them. Fire symbolizes more than emotion or excitement; it represents God Himself. There will be seasons when believers encounter difficult situations, yet God's fire assures us that He is present in the midst of trials and battles.

II The Fire That Produces Spiritual Authority

Throughout Scripture, God raised women who carried spiritual influence because they remained aligned with Him. Deborah was a prophetess, wife, and judge who exercised wisdom and leadership during a season of national compromise (Judges 4:4–9). Her life reflects divine order: God first, then family, then responsibilities. Esther similarly approached crisis through prayer, wisdom, and courage rather than panic. **Spiritual authority is sustained not by status or emotion but by intimacy with God.**

III Discerning and Keeping the Fire

Recognizing God's Fire

Not every fire comes from God. Scripture warns against "strange fire". A spiritually mature believer learns to distinguish God's leading from emotional impulses, worldly pressures, or counterfeit influences. Prayer, reverence, and spiritual sensitivity help us recognize what truly comes from Him.

LEVITICUS 10:1–2

Keeping the Fire Burning

All ten virgins had lamps, but only some carried oil to sustain the flame. The oil is spiritual devotion: prayer, worship, reverence, and fellowship with God. Fire is sustained in private before it is visible in public. Like Mary at Jesus' feet and Martha serving faithfully, we combine devotion with responsibility.

MATTHEW 25:1–13

IV The Queen and Her Kingdom

The women of IFC describe themselves as queens, reflecting the truth that intimacy with the King produces kingdom influence. A queen guards what has been entrusted to her (faith, family, relationships, and spiritual responsibility) with wisdom and grace. The Spirit of God within us is a fire that does not destroy but empowers, reveals hidden things, and equips believers with gifts to fulfil God's purposes and the Great Commission.

V Discussion Questions

1. What does the "fire of God" represent in the life of a believer, and how have you experienced God's presence or empowerment personally?
2. Deborah, Esther, Ruth, Mary, and Martha each model different expressions of spiritual strength. Which example speaks most to your current season of life, and why?
3. What practical habits help us keep spiritual "oil" in our lamps, so our fire for God does not grow cold?
4. How can believers develop discernment to recognize the difference between God's fire and "strange fire" in decisions, relationships, or ministry?

MEMORY VERSE

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him.

ACTS 10:38

✷ ACTION POINT

This week, strengthen your spiritual "oil supply" by dedicating daily time to prayer, worship, and Scripture meditation. Ask God to rekindle His fire within you and to reveal areas of your life, family, or calling that need greater spiritual attention and stewardship.

Conclusion

God desires believers who carry His fire: not merely outward religion, but inward transformation, discernment, and intimacy with Him. Whether in leadership, family, ministry, or personal struggles, the fire of God empowers us to walk in wisdom, fulfil our calling, and influence others for His glory.

Like the wise virgins, we must intentionally keep oil in our lamps. Like Deborah and Esther, we are called to walk in courage and discernment. And like Mary and Martha, we are invited to sit with Jesus before serving others. When God's fire burns within us, we become vessels of His presence, power, and purpose in a world that desperately needs Him.