

# **The Flame That Forms Us [Bold Faith Takes Risks]**

## **Discussion Guide**

### **Summary**

This sermon concludes a series on spiritual refinement, focusing on bold faith and taking risks for God's kingdom. Jonathan examines the story of Esther and Timothy, highlighting how God calls believers to move beyond their comfort zones and act with courage rather than fear. Through these biblical examples, the sermon emphasizes that while taking risks for God may be uncomfortable, He provides the power, love, and self-discipline needed to act boldly in faith.

### **Intro Prayer**

Lord, as we gather to discuss Your word, open our hearts and minds to understand what bold faith looks like in our lives. Help us recognize where You might be calling us to step out of our comfort zones and give us the courage to respond faithfully. Guide our discussion and help us learn from each other's experiences. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **Ice Breaker**

What did you want to be when you grew up as a child, and how does that compare to what you're doing now?

### **Key Verses**

- 2 Timothy 1:7
- 2 Corinthians 5:6-9
- 1 John 4:18
- Esther 4:14

## **Questions**

- What's the difference between worldly risks and godly risks according to the sermon?
- How does Esther's story demonstrate bold faith in action?
- What are some ways fear might be holding you back in your faith journey?
- How does the concept of 'even if' faith apply to taking risks for God?
- What role does self-discipline play in developing bold faith?
- How can we discern when God is calling us to take a risk versus acting on our own desires?
- What comfort zones might God be calling you to step out of right now?
- How can we cultivate the kind of love that casts out fear in our lives?

## **Life Application**

This week, identify one area where God might be calling you to step out of your comfort zone. Spend time in prayer asking for guidance and courage, then take one concrete step toward acting on that calling, whether it's sharing your faith, serving others, or addressing a difficult situation.

## **Key Takeaways**

- God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-discipline
- Bold faith requires taking risks for the kingdom of God
- Walking by faith means believing God's word over our circumstances
- Godly risks come from God's heart to advance His kingdom

- Cultivating a relationship with God helps build confidence to take bold steps of faith

### **Ending Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for reminding us that You have equipped us with power, love, and self-discipline to face any challenges ahead. Give us the courage to take bold steps of faith when You call us to action. Help us trust You even when the path seems uncertain, and may our lives reflect the confident faith that comes from knowing You. In Jesus' name, Amen.