

# **The Flame That Forms Us [Bold Faith Is Sacrificial]**

## **Discussion Guide**

### **Summary**

This sermon explores the concept of bold faith and sacrifice through the story of Stephen in Acts 7 and other biblical examples. Jonathan emphasizes that true sacrifice comes from keeping our focus on Jesus, not from the act of sacrifice itself. He contrasts two perspectives: asking how much we must give up to follow Jesus versus choosing to follow Jesus regardless of the cost, illustrated through the story of Mary anointing Jesus' feet and Judas's betrayal.

### **Intro Prayer**

Lord, as we gather to discuss Your Word, open our hearts and minds to understand what it means to keep our focus on You. Help us see sacrifice through Your eyes and give us the courage to follow You wholeheartedly. Guide our discussion and reveal the truths You want us to learn today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **Ice Breaker**

What's the most meaningful sacrifice someone has made for you?

### **Key Verses**

- Romans 12:1
- John 15:13
- Acts 7:55
- Hebrews 12:1-2
- Psalms 16:8

## **Questions**

- What does it mean to be a 'living sacrifice' according to Romans 12:1?
- How does Stephen's story demonstrate bold faith in the face of persecution?
- In what ways do you find yourself resisting sacrifice in your Christian walk?
- How does keeping our focus on Jesus help us maintain bold faith?
- What's the difference between sacrificing out of obligation versus love for Jesus?
- How does Mary's act of anointing Jesus' feet challenge our view of sacrifice?
- What are some practical ways we can keep our focus on Jesus in daily life?
- How can we distinguish between worldly sacrifice and godly sacrifice?

## **Life Application**

This week, identify one area where you've been hesitant to follow God fully. Commit to keeping your focus on Jesus rather than the potential cost, and take one specific step of obedience in that area.

## **Key Takeaways**

- Bold faith is sacrificial, but the focus should be on Jesus, not the sacrifice
- True worship may look foolish to the world but precious to God
- Keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus enables us to live sacrificially
- Where our treasure is, there our heart will be also

**Ending Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for showing us what true sacrifice looks like through Your Son Jesus. Help us keep our eyes fixed on You, even when the cost seems high. Give us the courage to pour out our lives as an offering to You, not counting the cost but treasuring You above all else. May our lives be a testimony of Your worth. In Jesus' name, Amen.