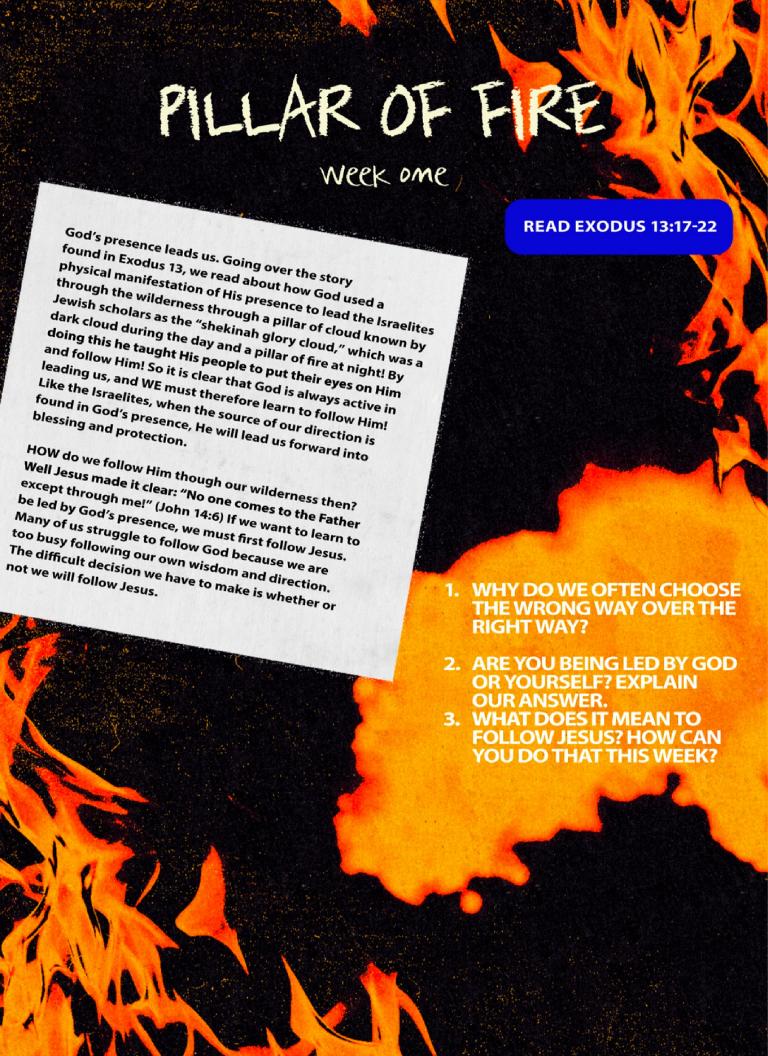
MINERE THERE'S SMOKE WILLIAM SMOKE AGERIES ON GOD'S PRESENCE

SCRIPTURE REFERS TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN MANY WAYS, BUT ONE OF THE MOST COMMON WAYS THE SCRIPTURES DENOTES THE PRESENCE OF GOD IS THROUGH FIRE. IN THIS FOUR-WEEK SERIES, WE EXPLORE THE WAYS IN WHICH GOD'S PRESENCE IS SYMBOLIZED BY FIRE AND THE "SMOKE" THAT SHOULD SHOW IN OUR LIVES BECAUSE OF IT.



FIERY FURNACE

Week two

READ DANIEL 3:8-25

Reading these verses we can see how Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego's faith was tested just like ours is today! And in the middle of their battle they weren't afraid because they were more concerned with pleasing God. The fire of God's presence held more security than anything else!

Therefore,
their trust in God gave
them confidence to step
into the furnace unafraid,
and God honored their
faith by keeping them
from burning!!
God's presence protected
them, just like He still offers
protection for us today!

- 1. WHY IS IT HARD TO TRUST GOD SOMETIMES?
- 2. ARE YOU TRUSTING IN GOD OR SOMEONE ELSE/ THING ELSE?
- 3. HOW CAN YOU PUT YOUR TRUST IN GOD THIS WEEK?

SO HOW CAN WE APPLY THIS TO OUR LIVES???

IN PSALMS 37:5 - TRUST IN GOD!

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD.

WHEN IT COMES TO CIRCUMSTANCES IN YOUR LIFE THERE IS

NOTHING THAT GOD CANNOT TURN AROUND FOR YOUR

YOU SIMPLY JUST MUST PUT YOUR TRUST IN HIM.



Week three

READ EXODUS 3 - 4:17

God is calling us. For some he is calling us like he called Moses to step into a specific area. To others God is calling us with that initial call to follow Him. Whatever it is, we are called to be consumed by him and to be surrounded by Him so that we can walk faithfully in our Mission Field. But like Moses, excuses keep us from resting in the promises we find in His presence. However, even in our excuses God answers with Truth!

He's got your back no matter what!

If you feel insignificant, like you are nobody. God saysyou are my son, I got you in EXODUS 13:12

If you struggle with unbelief of what God can do, or like no one light you in EXODUS 13:14-15

If you are fearful, or that you are unfit. God says-I am your protector, I got you in EXODUS 14:2-9

If you struggle with just not wanting to. God says-I am patient in EXODUS 14:14

Ultimately We make excuses to avoid responsibility and in our walk with God Excuses stop us from walking in our calling. HOWEVER, there is a God who walks with us patiently with his arms stretched out giving usthe exact tools we need to quit making excuses!

READ ZECHARIAH 13:9 MALACHI 3:2-4 1 PETER 1:6-7

So, what is Malachi 3:2-4? We learn about the children of Levi and how they need purification because of their disobedience to God's covenant. Today this could look like our relationship with God he uses impurities and make us holy in our relationship with Him. Sometimes the most beautiful and precious things in life come from heat and pressure. Take a diamond for example. Let us be honest, no one wants to choose fire because its way of hot is uncomfortable and it sometimes hurts too. Getting rid of our imperfections does not allow us to be comfortable. When we pursue God's presence, it is refining us daily into becoming more like him.

1 Peter 1:6-7 We are called to walk in endurance as Christians. It is the greatest way that God creates genuine faith in us.

We are Called to surrender to God during the fire.

Know that he is actively shaping us into holy and pure form when our faith is tested.

- 1. WHY DO WE AVOID DIFFICULTY AND **PAIN WITHIN OUR LIVES?**
- 2. HOW CAN YOU SURRENDER TO GOD THIS WEEK THROUGH YOUR TRIAL?
- 3. HOW DOES GODS PRESENCE REFINE US?

So, what do we do now?

This week I encourage you to surrender to God in the mist of the fire. Don't wait until things get easier or more comfortable. Choose to pursue Him now in the heat of the trail and let the fire of His presence refine you into the person He has called you to be and anointed you to be.