



## Part 4: Fire // Jeff Brodie // March 29, 2026



Most of us want a spiritual life that feels alive—but not one that feels disruptive. We want warmth without the work of building a fire. But what if the very thing we’re avoiding—the discomfort, the surrender, the step of courage—is exactly what keeps us spiritually cold? In this final *Closer Than You Think* message, we’re invited to move beyond passive faith and into a life ignited by the Holy Spirit—a life marked not just by belief, but by boldness.

**Scripture:** [Acts 1:4, 8 NLT](#) // [Acts 2:1-4 NLT](#) // [Acts 4:1-14, 23-24, 29-31 NLT](#) // [2 Timothy 1:5-8 NLT](#)

**Bottom Line:** Don’t settle for embers. Fan the flame.

***Don’t miss the special section of questions and activities at the end of this group discussion guide that are meant to help us reflect, pray, and take simple next steps as Easter approaches.***

### Digging In:

*Reminder: The goal is a good discussion, not completing every question. Use these as a tool to help.*

1. Can you relate to the opening story—choosing comfort instead of doing the work to “build the fire”? Where does that tendency show up in your life?
2. Why do we often want God’s presence without wanting disruption or discomfort?
3. When you think about sharing your faith, what emotions come up—fear, hesitation, confidence, avoidance? How so?
4. In Acts 1, why does Jesus tell the disciples to wait before going out? What does this teach us about dependence on the Holy Spirit?
5. In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit comes as fire. What do you think the image of fire represents about God’s presence?
6. Acts 4 says people were amazed by the disciples’ boldness. Why was that surprising? What changed in them between denying Jesus and boldly proclaiming him?
7. In 2 Timothy 1, Paul writes that God gives a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline—not fear. How does that challenge your current mindset? Where do you sense fear or timidity holding you back spiritually right now?
8. Have you ever had a season where your faith felt more bold or alive? What was different?

9. The early church didn't pray for safety—they prayed for boldness. What do your prayers reveal about your priorities?
10. Who in your life might God be prompting you to pursue a more intentional relationship with, invite to church, or pray for?
11. What is one step of courage you could take this week to live out your faith more openly?
12. In which area do you most need the Holy Spirit right now—life (wind), power (dove), satisfaction (water), or boldness (fire)? What difference would he make? Pray, "Come, Holy Spirit, come!"

**Looking Forward:**

This week, ask God to show you where you've been choosing comfort over calling. Take one intentional step to "fan the flame"—whether that's spending time in prayer, opening Scripture, or stepping out in courage with someone around you. Don't wait to feel ready. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with boldness, and trust that he will meet you in the moment you step out.

## **Easter Invitation // Group Reflection & Prayer**

At Connexus, we want to be the easiest church to invite our friends to. Invitation isn't about pressure or persuasion—it's about loving people well and trusting God with the results. These questions and activities are meant to help us reflect, pray, and take simple next steps in these four weeks leading up to Easter.

***Week 4 // Taking the Next Steps Together***

**Reflection Questions:**

- What is one simple step you feel led to take this week—praying, inviting, following up, or just showing up for someone?
- How can this group continue to support each other in living invitationally beyond Easter?

**Group Activity:**

- *Commit & Pray:* Invite group members (voluntarily) to share one next step they're intending to take.
- Pray a commissioning prayer together, asking God to use small acts of faith to make a big impact.