

Fire Spreads!

A little flame, that's how it started. Nobody thought that it could amount to much. Grace had been asked to clear the ground around the fire, just in case the fire spread.

Grace had not done a good enough job though. A lone blade of grass leant over the cleared area towards the fire. It only took a little bit of wind, a flame that licked upwards and all of a sudden that single blade of grass was alight! The flame snaked down the lone blade of grass and caught on a bigger patch. It looked pretty mesmerising. Then it spread!

Grace was beginning to panic. The wind got up and blew an ember across a few yards, another fire began. Everyone around had forgotten about the food they were preparing to cook. They were frantically trying to put the different fires out. There were now about six different fires. People were getting water, throwing dirt on the fire and stamping them out. Eventually everyone managed to put the fires out. Grace was very relieved and she thought how fire had life of its own. With a little fanning into flame from the wind, it could spread everywhere.

Have you heard of 'The Fire Triangle'? For a fire to burn you need 3 elements: oxygen, heat and fuel. In our story, the wind brought lots of oxygen, the heat came from the fire and the fuel was the blade of grass. If you remove any one of those three elements, then the fire will go out because the triangle is not complete.

We can think about Life Group in a similar way. We have the oxygen of prayer and learning about God's word. We have the heat, the fire of God's Spirit with us. What we need is fuel. God's truth being shared and displayed through relationships with people is the fuel we need!

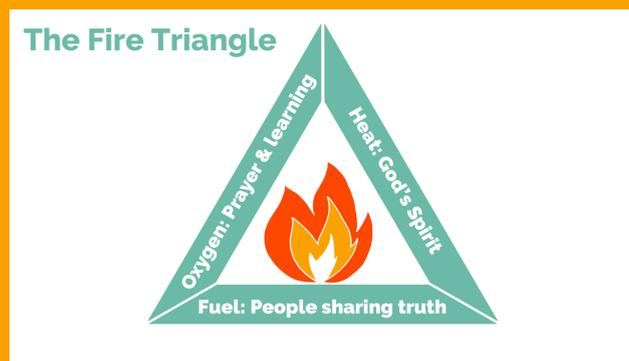
In the book of Acts we see that the first church rapidly grew from place to place. The fire of God's life spread from one person to another and as people travelled, one place to another. They openly spoke and displayed the truth they had found in Jesus. As Isaiah 49:6 puts it, "I will also make you a light for the Gentiles [the nations], that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

Put it into Action!

The good news of Jesus needs to be displayed and shared. This means our Life Group should not simply have the same people over time. One of the ways we can do this is to invite people to be part of our Life Group family. We can literally invite our friends and those distant from us. That way we bring the fuel of those relationships and put them together with God's oxygen and heat. Let's not be hesitant to talk and display Jesus in the relationships that we have.

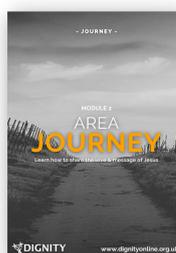
Pray that:

God will prepare people to hear your invitation and give you the right words to say.



Mr Mulenga* was on the bus home. He heard a man talking to a friend about community Bible study groups he was helping people start in their village. Mr Mulenga was intrigued and wanted to know more. He leant forward and joined the conversation. He learnt that he could start a Life Group in his own community.

- Mr Mulenga,* 16 Miles, Zambia



This lesson is inspired by "Firestarting" a lesson in Area Journey - Module 2 of the Journey course.

Find out more at:

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