

Fire House

Ephesians 4:1-16

Discover

A fire is the heartfelt worship, passionate emotions, and joyful enthusiasm we experience while enjoying our God. A house is the local residence of a family or group of people.

God created us to flourish within a community of families called a nation. Our Father adopted Abraham thousands of years ago, taught him how to worship, and committed to bless him and all the families of the nations. (Genesis 12:1-9)

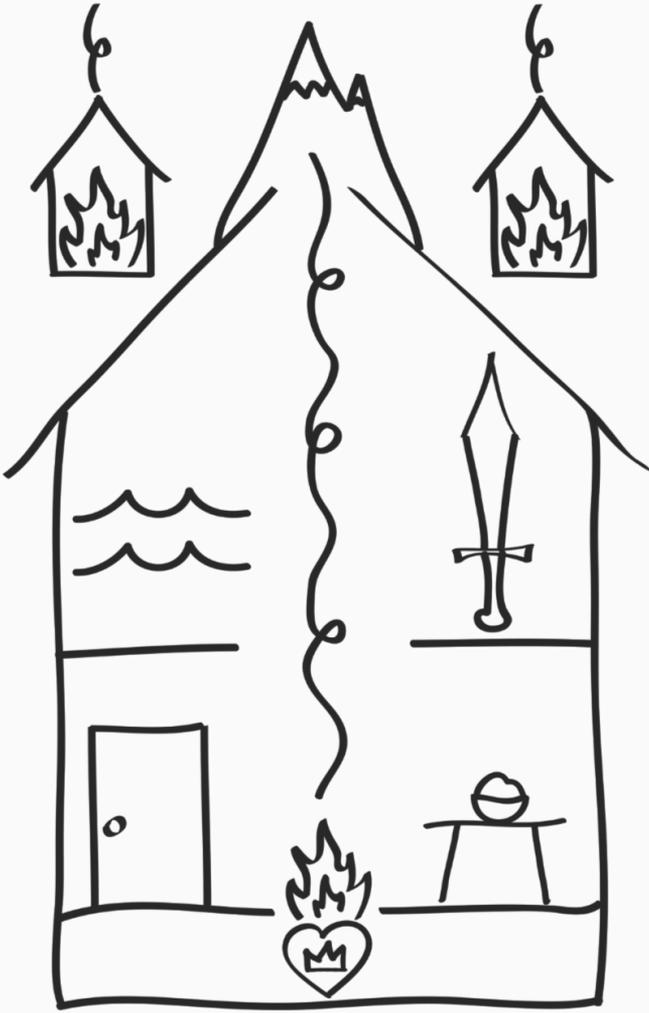
God met with Moses in the wilderness and commissioned him to rescue the nation of Israel out of slavery in Egypt. Our Father reaffirmed his covenant love for his people and delivered them into a beautiful inheritance. (Exodus 3:4-10)

Jesus explained to his disciples God's plan to build the Church as his new covenant nation. Jesus' Church is a spiritual fire house shining brightly with radical love for the nations and authority over hell's armies. (Matthew 16:13-19)

Peter describes the Church as Jesus' family. Jesus is our Cornerstone: a rock solid foundation. We are living stones, royal priests, and a holy nation with a mission to share the good news of Jesus' glory with all peoples. (1 Peter 2:4-10)

Paul describes the Church as a spiritual gift treasury. God directs the Holy Spirit in distributing and activating these gifts among us; he intentionally created diversity. Every gift is special, and we all practice humility. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

This lesson teaches us about God's passion for unity and diversity. We all belong to God, and the Holy Spirit is in charge of spiritual gifts. Our diversity is wonderful! Let us embrace God's design and love each other. (1 John 2:7-10)



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Draw

Holy Foundation: house, heart, crown, flame, & fragrance - Our Father is building us, his Church, into a spiritual house. Our foundation is complete unity with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our humility and worship are a fragrant offering that fills our households with his holy presence. (4:3-6,9-10)

Fruitful Fellowship: table & meal - Some of Jesus' disciples are gifted shepherds: focusing on patience, practicing peace, and protecting unity. Shepherds love to gather people together for meals and encouragement. (4:2-3,11)

Gospel Mission: door - Some of Jesus' disciples are gifted evangelists: speaking the truth in love and witnessing to anyone not in a church. Evangelists love to leave the house temporarily to invite the lost to become Jesus' family. (4:7-11)

Daily Death: water waves - Some of Jesus' disciples are gifted prophets: practicing the baptism of the Holy Spirit's power and ministering Jesus' blessings to everyone. Prophets love to praise God and pray constantly. (4:5-6,11)

Warfare Training: sword - Some of Jesus' disciples are gifted teachers: avidly studying God's Word, memorizing vast amounts of Scripture, and cultivating an expansive understanding of God's kingdom. Teachers love to discuss the Bible and assist others to grow in the truth. (4:11,13-15)

Frontier Vision: mountain - Some of Jesus' disciples are gifted apostles: researching places and peoples without the gospel, praying for spiritual breakthrough, and mobilizing the Church into our Lord's harvest fields. Apostles love to train disciples how to reach unengaged peoples. (4:1,11-13)

Fire House: houses, flames, & fragrance - Jesus' Church is balanced and powerful when all the gifts come together in unity, and teams take the gospel into new homes. (4:11-16)

Discuss

Read Ephesians 4:11-15. What gifts out of these five do you identify with the most? Why do we need all the gifts? What happens if we do not embrace them all? How do these gifts work together to keep us safe from evil and false teaching?

Read Jeremiah 29:4-7. How does God want to establish his people and bless them in spiritually dark places? What will happen if Spirit-filled families begin to seek the peace, freedom, and prosperity of the places where we live?

Read Mark 1:29-34. Why did Jesus decide to demonstrate his power and authority over sickness and evil spirits in homes and small towns? What do we learn about how to respond when we find people sick or captive in bondage?

Read Acts 10:34-48. How did Peter spark a new fire house? What is the gift of the Holy Spirit? Why did they baptize this family immediately? How can we welcome and embrace the Holy Spirit as the living fire of God in our hearts and homes?

Disciple

Let's get practical. Ephesians 4 illustrates the healthy family of God captivated by his love for all the nations. Is there anyone that I need to meet with and ask forgiveness? How can we pursue relationships with disciples involved in other churches? What are my gifts and passions; what do I love to do for Jesus? What is one next step we can take towards sharing meals and the gospel with our neighbors?

Dedicate

Father, thank you for making your home within us. Thank you for tearing the veil and opening up a new, living way for us to experience you every day. Please light a fresh fire within us, in Jesus' name and for his glory we pray, amen.