“Refine” – Family Devotional

April 5, 2020

A missionary took her class to explore a local village. They came upon a goldsmith who was refining gold over a fire. The missionary and class stopped, entranced by the diligence and process of the goldsmith. They witnessed the goldsmith take the gold out of the fire, put it back in, take it out, and put it back in.

The Goldsmith would carefully examine the gold every time he would pull it out of the fire. Finally, the goldsmith took the gold out of the fire, looked at it, nodded his head in confirmation, and put the gold in a cool place to finish.

The missionary was perplexed and asked the goldsmith what standard he used to measure the gold’s readiness. The goldsmith smiled and said, “It is complete, when I can see my face in it”

Although we can see the “gold” in this story representing our faith, there is something important to remember: Our faith is worth more than gold. Gold perishes, Jesus is eternal

1 Peter 1:7 says, “These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

The refining process is not easy and not painless. There will be times where it seems too hard to push through, where we want to succumb to the fire. But, the only way through, is through. If we look at those struggles and despair we encounter as opportunities to grow, strengthen, and refine, we will arrive at a point of genuineness, honor, glory, and praise. It is at this point we recognize not only our strength, but we become a pure reflection of Jesus.

The way we approach our current situation will reveal a lot about who we trust and what we believe to the rest of the world. We can encounter this fire and trust that we will come out of it pure and strengthened, rather than being placed in it to be burned and disintegrated.

When Jesus is seen through us, we are able to be His reflection to the world. People can look at us and see we are different, that we know what it means to be through the fire. And it is with that knowledge, we are called to help others walk through their fires. To love and remind them that trials are a process, and like purified gold, takes time.

*Check out discussion questions on the next page!*

Questions for Discussion

*We encourage you to spend some time praying and talking through these questions together as a family!*

1. What is the hardest part about this current situation for each of you? What is the best part about it?
2. What makes you feel like you are being tested or refined? How can God use this situation to bring you out on the other side, purer and able to reflect Him?
3. How have you seen Jesus revealed in the past 3 weeks? How are you looking for Him to be revealed?
4. Why do you think God allows these things to happen? Why does He use situations like these to refine His people, instead of less painful situations?
5. How are you reflecting Jesus? What can you continue to do to show Him to other people?
6. Have you discovered any new activities you really enjoy, or discovered a new favorite movie, or new favorite food? What are you grateful for right now?
7. How have you addressed fear together? How are you allowing God to speak into uncertainty?
8. Just for funsies:
   1. Go for a walk! GET OUTSIDE! Once it gets warmer (hopefully soon), set up a tent outside and try camping overnight! Because, why not?!?!?
   2. Try to make a meal you’ve never made before – spend some time with a brand new recipe!
   3. Make a rube Goldberg machine (don’t know what that is? Google it!) – take a video and share it with us!