CORNERSTONE REFLECTION GUIDE
AUGUST 3, 2025

Title: **Fighting Fires**
Preacher: **Rev. Dr. Abe Smith**
Scripture: **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

How do you respond when life turns up the heat—when the trials and tribulations inevitably come? Do you find yourself reacting in fear, scrambling for answers and stability? Or are you able to respond with faith, drawing from a place of preparation and strength?

In his second letter to Timothy, the Apostle Paul offers a powerful reminder: Scripture is not merely a sacred text or a religious tradition—it is the very word of God (2 Timothy 3:16). It's alive, authoritative, and divinely designed to shape every part of who we are and how we live.

Paul's words are a call to spiritual readiness. He makes it clear that if we want to stand firm in the face of adversity, we can't afford to be passive or spiritually unprepared. We must be people who are trained in the Word—letting Scripture teach us, correct us, strengthen us, and prepare us for whatever lies ahead. **Training doesn't begin in the fire; it begins long before.** So that when the trials come, we can respond in faith and stand firm in God's truth.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What stuck out to you about this sermon? Was there an idea that was particularly meaningful or challenging for you?
2. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. How does knowing that Scripture is God-breathed change the way you read the Bible? How does it change the way you live?

3. Why do you think Paul emphasizes that Scripture equips believers "for every good work" (v. 17)? What does that suggest about the role of Scripture in our daily lives?
4. How do you see the four uses of Scripture—teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training—playing out in your life or church?
5. How might Scripture help prepare or train us for the difficult seasons? Can you think of some practical examples in your own life?

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Just like an athlete trains before the game or a firefighter prepares before the flames, it is important to have a framework to establish daily rhythms of spiritual training so we're not caught off guard when the difficulties and trials of life inevitably arise.

To engage with Scripture in a way that truly equips you, try using the **4 Pillars method** based on 2 Timothy 3:16. This week, set aside at least **15 minutes** each day to read a short passage and reflect in your journal under the four following headings:

> **Teaching**: What truth is God revealing to me?
> **Rebuking**: Is there an attitude or action I need to confront?
> **Correcting**: What needs to change in my life?
> **Training**: How can I live this out in a practical way today?

After journaling, take time to **pray through what you've learned**. Ask God to help you not only understand His Word but also apply it—to give you strength to obey and eyes to recognize when that truth needs to be lived out in real life.

To go deeper, consider **sharing one insight** with a friend, family member, or accountability partner. Even a brief conversation can reinforce your growth and encourage others in their own walk.

At the end of each week, take a few minutes for a simple **reflection**. Review your journal entries and look for how God is working in your life.

This rhythm turns your time in the Word into spiritual strength training—helping you build resilience before trials hit, grow in discernment, and stay faithful in every season.