



**Date:** May 28th, 2023

**Title:** Bringing the Fire!

**Scripture:** Luke 9:51-56

### **Introduction to Analog**

The word, Analog, means “something that is similar or comparable to something else”. Analog is designed to be a tangible way to take another, deeper, look into each week’s Sunday morning message. Individuals, friends, small groups, and families can use Analog for further discussion and exploration of the Sunday teaching. May this tool help you explore the expansive heart of God and practice love in the ways of Jesus.

### **Teaching Season**

There are several stories that cause one to wonder exactly who Jesus is. While we may be quick to offer an answer, Luke does no such thing. Rather he tells several stories of parables, interactions and miracles all leading up to Jesus asking the question himself: “Who do you say I am?” And we are invited to respond.

### **Teaching**

There are plenty of stories of fire falling from heaven on perceived enemies of God. Whether the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, or the one that seems to be reflected here, 2 Kings 1. There we find Elijah confronting messengers of Ahaziah, not once but twice, with fire from heaven that consumes them. It is only on the third try that Elijah agrees to meet with the king. It’s not wonder then that James and John wanted to call down fire from heaven; it was part of their tradition. As much as there may have been precedent, it seems Jesus is not interested in their ideas of violence. Instead, he rebukes them in the same way he rebuked the sea. While Jesus was rejected by the Samaritans, he did not seem interested in punishment as a result. From this story, we explored the idea of what we do and how we respond when we are rejected.

Listen to the teaching [online](#) or on the DCC App

**Opening Question for the Group:** Start your group discussion with the question below.

- 1) What is your go-to karaoke song?

### **Questions for Discussion or Reflection**

Here are some questions for discussion or reflection. Don't feel like you have to cover them all, and you may have questions of your own to ask. The Spiritual Practice for this week could be very meaningful for you or your group, so plan on 10 minutes or so for this exercise. If you are using this in a group context, read through these questions and the Spiritual Practice before your group meets to familiarize yourself with this material. You may want to send this out to the group before you meet.

1. How does hearing background and history around a story in the Sacred Text help you see the story in new ways?
2. What are the ways you have seen the Christian community divide? In what ways have you increased division? In what ways have you brought healing to division?
3. Have you ever read stories in the Bible thinking because there are included in Scripture it means that God endorses the stories?
4. Who are your Samaritans?

### **Spiritual Practice:**

This week for our formation practice, we invite you to listen to our guided time of prayer and reflection. You can listen to this guided prayer by clicking on the link below. You can also access the spiritual formation podcast through the DCC App.

[Spiritual Formation Podcast: Guided Meditation – Bitterness + Forgiveness](#)