



THE  
COURAGE  
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ABOVE

# FAITH UNDER FIRE

CHURCH CAMPAIGN GUIDE

# FAITH UNDER FIRE

## OVERVIEW

**TRAILER: [FAITHUNDERFIREFILM.COM](http://FAITHUNDERFIREFILM.COM)**

After an exhausting night saving a young girl from a raging house fire, Fireman Tom Hatcher is at the end of his rope. He couldn't save his wife from cancer - and worse yet - his six year old daughter, Tiffany, is now facing the same possible fate.

When he finds himself in a cold jail cell after attacking a pastor out of frustration with a seemingly absent God, Tom begins to reflect on his downward spiral into despair. But with the help and persistent friendship of the very man he assaulted, Tom is challenged to face his grief and embrace faith in the darkest hours of his life.

This five-session small group discussion guide will walk you through Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, which reflects on the many balances of times and seasons God ordained for this life, as Tom comes to learn throughout FAITH UNDER FIRE. It will also encourage you to remember that God can use both the upbeat and challenging seasons of life to grow and shape us to be more like Him.

Each session includes a clip from FAITH UNDER FIRE, a short devotional, several Scripture passages, and discussion questions that will give you the opportunity to reflect on your own seasons of life and on what God may be teaching you through each period.

You can see FAITH UNDER FIRE in select theaters on November 27th!  
See [faithunderfirefilm.com](http://faithunderfirefilm.com) for more information.

# FAITH UNDER FIRE

## WHY FAITH UNDER FIRE?

Our world is filled with hurting people. In fact, everyone carries hurt with them, sometimes current pain and at other times from far in the past. In FAITH UNDER FIRE we follow the life of Tom Hatcher, a fireman who has lost more than most of us can imagine. He is angry at God, and likewise everyone else. He is broken; not sure why God has allowed him to bear so much pain. Yet as the story unfolds we see that God was with him, that He brought the right people along at the right time to show how much He loved Tom, and that He was there to pick him up in the pain.

This movie is a great ministry tool. So many will relate to the pain and loss Tom experienced, and many will give testimony to the love and grace God has given us when we walk through difficult days – when our faith is under fire.

The following campaign guide is a tool for your Church to find ideas and plans for engaging FAITH UNDER FIRE. A movie that has many points of impact including:

- **Serving** – helping those who are going through difficult life circumstances. In a Covid world, many have been ill, lost loved ones, are experiencing negative economic impact, or just struggling with how much our lives have changed. This movie will bring people to conversations and give your Church a chance to serve them.
- **Redemption** – when we are at our weakest and most vulnerable, God can redeem our situations. Our stories impact more around us, they give us a chance to share and encourage others who are going through tough times. God can redeem our experience to help and encourage others.
- **Role of the Church in everyday life** – At the middle of this story we see a Pastor and Church family holding up the hurting. We see imperfect people loving those going through a crisis, praying together, and simply being present with them.

We are all broken in some way. Our lives have had experiences that have taken us through difficult times. When we allow God to show up and get in the middle of our mess, our brokenness can be made beautiful because God can use it to do His will in our lives, and in those around us who witness the power of God. That is what helps our faith when it's under fire.

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## HOW TO ENGAGE FAITH UNDER FIRE

FAITH UNDER FIRE is coming to theaters and is even available to show in your Church. When that happens, your Church can use this movie as a catalyst to encourage and minister to anyone who has experienced hurt and pain in their lives. It can be used to encourage Small Groups to come around those in their community and re-engage in ministry to find and help those in crisis.

You can grab a group and go to the theater or make plans to show the movie in your Church. With Covid being such a part of culture, perhaps going to the Church building feels safer and gives you a chance to reach your community by inviting them to a movie night.

The holidays can be a difficult time, and FAITH UNDER FIRE kicks off the season with a release in November.

### **Ways to Engage:**

- Go to the theater or host a community movie night at your Church with the Faith Content Network.
- Have your small groups engage in the Group Discussion Guide that provides guided discussion around going through difficult circumstances. Pray for those hurting and even reach out to those who are hurting or lonely.
- Adopt a senior couple to help or pray over a local hospital, knowing many who are hurting are in a hospital environment watching over those they love.
- Share insights and ideas through your Church's marketing channels - Social Media, Email, and video throughout the Church.
- Send handouts home with kids to share with their parents.
- Have a Date Night, offer childcare and a banquet at the Church. Invite local Firemen and serve those who serve your community.

# FAITH UNDER FIRE

## THEMES FROM FAITH UNDER FIRE

### 1. LIFE HAS LESSONS - ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.”

Life can be like a roller coaster – twists, turns, hills, and valleys. And no matter which way you’re going, it is certainly a wild ride. We go through seasons; some are joyful, and some are very hard. No matter the season, God is right alongside us giving us all we need to enjoy or endure it.

In FAITH UNDER FIRE we follow Tom as he loses what he loves the most. We see him going through a time of mourning, weeping, giving up, and more. In Psalm 9:9, we read, “The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.” And in Psalm 18:2, “The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

Perhaps in seasons of joy, we should simply soak up the presence of God and allow that to strengthen our faith and help others. Then, when we are faced with the difficulties of life, we can cling to our Rock and hide behind our shield and fortress, so we can be strengthened and cared for. Understanding that life has seasons means that, when we are living in the hard times, better seasons are ahead. We just need to keep our eyes focused and our faith steadfast in the One who holds these seasons in His hands.

#### THINK ABOUT IT:

1. What season are you in right now?
2. What have you learned in the difficult seasons that you can share with others going through those times right now?
3. What have you learned in the good times that can help your faith grow stronger to be ready to face the hard times?

# FAITH UNDER FIRE

## THEMES FROM FAITH UNDER FIRE

### 2. YOU DON'T ALWAYS KNOW SOMEONE'S STORY

Luke 6:37 says, "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven." In FAITH UNDER FIRE, Tom visits a church where people knew his past. Because of that, they judged him. How many people walk into our lives that we instantly judge? Maybe they look different, don't dress like we think they should, or maybe we have even heard something about them from their past.

In Luke, we read that we should not judge or condemn, but rather forgive. Imagine when someone who has made a mistake in life - like we all have - is shown love and a spirit of forgiveness. They will be ready to listen to the One who loves them versus turning them away.

Read these passages about Judgement and Kindness:

- John 8:1-8
- Luke 6:31-36
- Romans 2:1-3
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- Ephesians 4:32
- Colossians 3:12

### THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Share how in the past you have been judgmental to someone.
2. What do the scripture passages tell us about being judgmental?
3. How can you show kindness to others?

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## THEMES FROM FAITH UNDER FIRE

### 3. WE ARE ALL ALONE — UNTIL...

Isaiah 30:21 says, “Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying “This is the way; walk in it.”

Do you ever feel alone, like nobody hears you, sees you, or even cares about you? GOOD NEWS - You are never alone, God is right there, wherever you are. This passage in Isaiah reminds us that God put the Holy Spirit inside those who love and follow Him to be with us, and to guide us where to go and what to do.

Romans 5:8 says that while we were sinners Christ died for us. The ultimate show of love - He saw us at our worst, and He loved us in spite of it. When we feel lonely, He is with us, the One who loves us more than anyone else ever has, and He is waiting for us to invite Him in. In Revelation 3:20 we read, “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”

Finally, Joshua 1:9 says, “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” He is always with us, no matter how alone we feel. Call out to Him, invite Him to join you in your struggle, and He will give you peace.

#### THINK ABOUT IT:

1. When is the last time you experienced the presence of God in your life?
2. How do you visit and connect with God?
3. Share other Bible passages that give you comfort when you feel alone, encourage one another.

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## TOOLS FOR YOUR CAMPAIGN

### CAMPAIGN STRATEGY TIMELINE

Your campaign's success will be directly proportionate to how well you plan and follow up. In order to maximize your FAITH UNDER FIRE ministry campaign in your church and community, use the following timeline to structure your planning, your events, and your follow-up.

#### Before the Campaign

- Get buy-in from your Pastor and senior leadership
- Assemble your team
- Cast vision and develop goals
- Begin praying daily
- Decide on your strategy
- Plan your events and message series
- Set your budget. Include team meeting expenses, promotions, communications, events, and any curriculum
- Download free promotional materials at [faithunderfirefilm.com](http://faithunderfirefilm.com)
- Recruit testimonies from team members or volunteer ministers in your church
- Launch small-group planning
- Go viral [see the Social Media section of this campaign resource]
- Host an information session for your congregation or ministry team. In your initial meeting, take time to cast vision, share goals, and begin a congregational prayer movement using the Campaign Prayer Guide
- Develop a marketing plan for church-wide and community outreach, noting specific engagement dates beginning four weeks from the start of your campaign

#### During the Campaign

- Continue praying for the campaign, its leaders, and those individuals who are attending different activities
- Keep morale high by recasting the vision and offering regular progress reports
- Continue to finalize details and promote upcoming events
- Update social media outlets regularly

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## TOOLS FOR YOUR CAMPAIGN

### During the Campaign

- Implement your campaign sermon series, small group options, and ministry mobilization ideas
- Undergird and encourage any team members who may struggle with their responsibilities
- Keep following your marketing plan and meet all dates and deadlines for church-wide and community communication about events and campaign opportunities
- Take notes to evaluate your Faith-Based Film Campaign and use for future church-wide efforts

### After the Campaign

- Meet with your core leadership team to finalize campaign efforts. Use the opportunity to recognize their hard work and to thank everyone for their tremendous service
- Follow up with any decisions made
- Involve the team in evaluating the campaign
- Send thank-you letters to your pastor, theater managers, and campaign team members
- Meet with your pastor and senior leadership to plan for the future

## SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

### Facebook

Start by going to and “Liking” the FAITH UNDER FIRE page. You can find it at the following URL: <https://www.facebook.com/Faith-Under-Fire-112757473888489>. From that page, you can view the movie trailer, link to the official website, stay up-to-date on movie release information, and interact with the cast and writers.

Your Facebook church page or campaign page will allow you to designate roles within the page. Admins have the most power over content creation and also governance over users. For ease of use, designate several admins and editors over your page in order to delegate and use a wide variety of people in campaign leadership roles. Images and videos tend to get the most engagement, so be sure to post images with quotes that relate to the theme of your campaign (ex. Hope, Faith, Belief, etc.)

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## TOOLS FOR YOUR CAMPAIGN

### **Facebook**

Next, create and post specific events for any of your calendared campaign items. It allows everyone you invite to RSVP and easily share the event and invite others. The more buzz you can create, the more people have the opportunity to attend. Even if you are not buying group tickets in advance, but want to all meet at the theater, you can use this as a tool to rally your church members to the theater.

Finally, use your own status or the wall of your church/ministry page to share information about the film. Drum up as much awareness and support as you can for the movie. The more success each faith-based film attains, the greater the chance we have of seeing more movies like FAITH UNDER FIRE on big screens worldwide.

Encourage other social media savvy participants or even those who are brand new to the world of Facebook to make your church-wide campaign events their daily statuses and to continue to share about the film during your campaign.

### **Twitter**

Begin using your Twitter page[s] to create buzz around your Facebook events and announcements. Share them via strategically placed tweets. Use Twitter to inspire people and then invite them to join you.

Consider taking the time on the outset of your campaign to create a document full of possible tweets related to your campaign. The power of what can be communicated in the 280-character max to circulate the simple reasons for the campaign is endless. As a follower of Jesus, we have just one mission and that is to make disciples. The world we live in today communicates in byte-sized bits. If you were a missionary to Mexico, you would speak the official language—Spanish. To effectively engage culture where you are, you have to speak “tweet.” It’s not reducing the quality of the content, just the quantity of characters you use to transmit it. It will force you to evaluate your vision and streamline your message.

### **Video Sharing Social Media Platforms**

Each of the platforms in this category allows you to post, share, and utilize video content to enhance the social media outreach and influence of your film campaign. Regardless of which option(s) you employ, videos can widen your effectiveness. The goal should not be to go viral but to cast vision, create momentum, and engage your audience.

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## TOOLS FOR YOUR CAMPAIGN

### **Video Sharing Social Media Platforms**

Consider the impact of creating the video idea provided below and posting on your chosen social media content sharing applications. It works well within the framework of both Facebook and Twitter and easily integrates into your overall web presence.

Here's just one idea of how you can utilize video for your campaign. Invite members of your congregation, both young and old, to come in for a quick video shoot. Ask each one to share what they think of when they hear the word "faith". People might share heartwarming thoughts or even humorous ones. The video stories should be short and simple and compiled into a single piece to post on your social media video sharing platform and linked to other pages promoting your campaign. Conclude your montage with each person saying all or part of this line [or something similar]:

"In this world you will have suffering, but take heart, I have overcome the world.  
DON'T LOSE HOPE!"

Your video collaboration will feature many unique thoughts and voices, all culminating in a powerful piece to enhance your campaign.

In addition to that creative idea, or others that you develop, your video platforms can be used to create and share invitations to events, information about your campaign, devotional content throughout, and even post shareable summaries of your campaign events once they are complete. Don't neglect the power of the after effect. Posting, liking, sharing, and reposting event videos once they have occurred creates as much buzz for your church and future community engagements as anything else. If people see a captivating video and regret not participating, that will certainly drum up more attention for your future efforts.

### **Instagram**

On your own Instagram page, plan to take photos of people who attend your campaign events. Using your campaign #hashtag, you can easily highlight the event. Encourage church members to share event photos with one another and tag each other's Facebook profiles in their pictures. Ask them to make it their profile picture for the duration of the campaign. Ask them to be willing and prepared to share with anyone who asks or comments the purpose of the pictures and the purpose of the church events. The greater the energy surrounding participation, the greater the event's success.

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## DISCIPLESHIP OPTIONS

Another “instagrammable” idea for the campaign is the video feature. Have participants post a video on their own of something that gives them hope, similar to the plan listed in the aforementioned creative content. Using the same church-wide #hashtag allows you to assemble each video or picture post in the same page and even stream them from your church website.

FAITH UNDER FIRE can be a tremendous “on ramp” into disciple making. After the movie, or even before, viewers will be ready to engage in discussion and small groups around the topics of hope, faith, forgiveness, grief, doubt, and more. The movie has many perspectives around these themes and will lend itself well to using some of these resources and others.

- You’ll Get Through This – Max Lucado
- A Grief Observed – C.S. Lewis
- Suffering is Never for Nothing – Elizabeth Elliot
- Caught in the Act of Grace – Darla Weaver

**Visit [faithunderfirefilm.com](http://faithunderfirefilm.com) for the official FREE Bible study tools of FAITH UNDER FIRE.**

Any studies you lean into during your campaign around this movie should take advantage of the momentum your campaign achieved and include a nod to the idea of starting fresh, even in significant areas of life. Another key component easily talked about after seeing the film is the role of faith put into action. The studies suggested above will be a connection to the film participants to help them continue long into their study time.

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## TEAM PRAYER GUIDE

Oswald Chambers offered in his iconic work, *My Utmost for His Highest*, “Prayer does not equip us for greater works—prayer is the greater work.” That is certainly true of your campaign effort. Use the following Prayer Guide as a resource throughout your campaign season for your leadership team. Use the prayer prompts and scripture verses as ways to pray for God’s power and the movement of the Holy Spirit in your community and your church.

There is no more powerful medium for prayer than the Word of God. This Prayer Guide challenges you to pray through scripture and faithfully expect the promises of God to be fulfilled. Praying scripture aligns your heart with God’s heart because you are filling your mind with His Word.

These passages have been selected because of the opportunity they present to pray for God to move in the hearts of your people. Campaign prayer team leader: Feel free to add your own passages based on specific requests for your congregation and your community. As God directs your campaign vision, so goes the movement of the campaign prayer team.

### **PRAY FOR SALVATION**

Use the following verses as you pray for salvation to spring up in the hearts of lost people through your campaign effort. Because of the hopelessness experienced by so many, helping people connect to Christ by first connecting to the characters in the film may be just the tool God chooses to use to expose their hearts to His overwhelming grace.

John 1:12 – “But to all who did receive Him, He gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

Romans 10:9-10 – “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation.”

John 14:6 – “No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 – “For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift—not from works, so that no one can boast.”

Ephesians 1:13 – “When you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed in Him, you were also sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.”

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## TEAM PRAYER GUIDE

### **PRAY FOR GOD'S FAVOR**

As you pray through this section of verses, you are boldly asking God's favor on your campaign efforts. By bathing your work in prayer, you are indicating something very significant to God, your dependence on Him. Remember, Jesus explained that we can do nothing apart from Him [John 15]. We need the undeniable presence and power of God in order to live and breathe and hope, and especially to accomplish works in His name.

2 Corinthians 9:8 - "And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work."

Hebrews 4:16 - "Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time."

Matthew 7:11 - "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"

Psalms 90:17 - "Let the favor of the Lord our God be on us; establish for us the work of our hands—establish the work of our hands!"

Psalms 67:1 - "May God be gracious to us and bless us; look on us with favor, so that your way may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations."

John 1:16-17 - "Indeed, we have all received grace after grace from His fullness, for the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

### **PRAY FOR RENEWED COMMITMENT TO CHRIST AMONG PARTICIPANTS**

Psalms 143:10 - "Teach me to do your will, for You are my God. May your gracious Spirit lead me on level ground."

Proverbs 16:3 - "Commit your activities to the Lord, and your plans will be achieved."

1 King 8:61 - "Let your heart be completely devoted to the Lord our God to walk in His statutes and to keep His commands, as it is today."

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Hebrews 12:1 - “Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us.”

2 Chronicles 15:12 - “Then they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their ancestors with all their mind and all their heart.”

Matthew 22:37 - “He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

Psalms 25:4 - “Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths.”

Romans 12:2 - “Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.”

Jeremiah 29:12-14a “You will call to Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you’—this is the Lord’s declaration.”

### **PRAY FOR CHURCH GROWTH**

Ultimately, there is a hope that your church will always be growing. First by new conversion growth as unbelievers repent and turn to Christ for salvation. Beyond that, there are no stagnant waters in the pool of Christianity. You must also pray that people connected to Christ continue to grow into mature believers and represent His church well.

Ephesians 4:11-13 - “And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son, growing into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ’s fullness.”

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 - “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”

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2 Peter 3:18 - “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

2 Peter 1:5-8 - “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Acts 2:41-47 - “So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about 3,000 people were added to them. And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. Then fear came over everyone, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as anyone had a need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple complex, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with a joyful and humble attitude, praising God and having favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to them those who were being saved.”

Philippians 1:6 - “I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Romans 8:29 - “For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers.”

### **PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HOPE**

Because such a key component of the film is a spiritual journey that begins with grief, a considerable prayer to pray during your campaign is for hurting people to see and experience the hope found in Christ, so that hope will grow their faith.

Isaiah 60:20 - “Your sun will never set; your moon will not go down. For the Lord will be your everlasting light. Your days of mourning will come to an end.”

John 14:27 - “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.”

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Romans 15:13 - "I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit."

Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Revelation 21:4 - "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Matthew 11:28 - "Then Jesus said, 'Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest'."



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