



CARRIERS

FINDING FAITH IN FEAR

Scott Haus
April 26, 2020

GROUP ICE BREAKER

What is the greatest fear you've overcome in life and how did you overcome it?

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will memorize Philippians 4:6-7
- I will pray about what's going on inside of me.
- I will believe God's desire for me is peace.
- I will see worry as a cue for me to give it to God.
- I will say, "Yes," to the action God wants me to take.
- I will live like I'm under God's care and control.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

There's a tension we can feel as a Christ-follower, that we shouldn't be feeling afraid, that somehow we are lacking faith in God if we do. After all, it is uttered throughout the Bible, "Do not be afraid," In the story of Peter, we see how fear can lead to greater faith. *Fear is a constant companion*. There are four basic fears, warning fear that serves as our protector, ego fear that desires success, trauma fear that can fundamentally change who we are, and invitational fear that gives a message that we're on the right track. Jesus didn't take Peter out of the storm, but entered the storm with him. Fear gives us tunnel vision, all we can see is the trouble in front of us, but *faith is a continuous choice*. We can all become people of prayer in moments of desperation. The story of the Bible is not how God will save us from the storm, but how God will save us through the storm. *Fear is a catalyst for faith*. Fear does not mean you have no faith, but gives the opportunity to take the hand of Jesus in greater faith. There are practical actions we can take to overcome fear and lean into faith. We can protect our thoughts, raise the practice of prayer, look beyond ourselves, practice gratitude, and trust God with what we can't control. Trust that Jesus is in the storm with you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What kind of things do you tend to trust in when life gets stormy, that make you feel secure rather than fearful?
2. Read Mark 6:47-48. Why do you think Jesus waited until near dawn before He went out to help them?
3. Read Matthew 14:26-27. How does Jesus respond to their fear? In what way does the immediacy of His response impact your view of Jesus and your trust in Him?



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT)

4. What lesson did Peter learn about stepping out in faith? What can we learn from this about the kind of faith Jesus wants for us?
5. Share with the group a time you had to step out in faith in your life. What happened?
6. When the Bible encourages us to not fear, these are not empty, wishful-thinking commands; they are backed by the power, character and love of God. Read the following passages and discuss what they reveal about faith in God over fear? Psalm 23:4, 27:1; Isaiah 41:10, 43:1-4; Hebrews 13:5-6
7. Where in your life is God inviting you to step out of the boat, your fears, and into faith in Him? What's holding you back?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will approach difficult situations with faith.
- I will protect my thoughts by not consuming that which is not helpful or beneficial.
- I will raise the practice of prayer in my life.
- I will look beyond myself and how I can serve others.
- I will practice daily gratitude and thankfulness for what God has done
- I will trust God with what I cannot control.
- When facing fear, I will keep my eyes on Jesus.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Matthew 14:22-32
- Hebrews 11:1
- Hebrews 10:19-22