



## Series: Not Afraid

### Week 1

## Fear Not

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### Introduction

- Acknowledge the season: Fall, Halloween decorations, horror movies, cultural focus on fear.
  - Stats:
    - \$900M on decorations in 2005 → \$5B today.
    - \$13B total on Halloween festivities annually.
    - Horror = ~1 in 10 movies released.
  - Clarify: Not a “Halloween rant,” but a focus on how **fear grips our lives** all year long.
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### Fear in Our Culture

- Fear doesn't appear for just a few weeks; it lingers and paralyzes spiritually, mentally, physically.
  - Top 10 fears (psychology research): death, public speaking, failure, rejection, loneliness, dark, heights, confined spaces, illness/pain, unknown.
  - Honesty: Most of us resonated with at least one fear on this list.
  - Analogy: Mario Bros. "micro-goombas" → fear slows us down, keeps us from jumping forward in faith.
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## **Fear in the Bible: Abram's Story**

### **1. Leaving Home (Gen 12)**

- Abram leaves Haran after Terah's death.
- God directs him to Canaan.
- Builds altars, worships.

### **2. Famine & Egypt (Gen 12:10–20)**

- Fear of losing his life → lies about Sarai.
- Pharaoh takes her; plagues fall.
- Abram leaves wealthier, foreshadowing God's protection of His bride.

### **3. Conflict with Lot (Gen 13)**

- Fear of losing relationship/land.
- Lot chooses fertile land.
- God responds with promise of descendants and inheritance.

### **4. War & Rescue (Gen 14)**

- Abram rescues Lot from captivity.
- Honors God with tithe to Melchizedek.

## **5. God's Direct Word (Gen 15:1)**

- "Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great."
  - Abram voices fears: no son, no proof of inheritance.
  - God confirms covenant with dramatic vision: terror and darkness → torch and fire pot seal His promise.
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## **Fear in Isaac's Story**

### **1. Famine & New Land (Gen 26)**

- Like his father, lies about wife Rebekah being his sister.
- King Abimelek discovers truth.
- God protects covenant line.

### **2. Blessing & Opposition (Gen 26:12–22)**

- Isaac prospers but faces hostility: wells filled in, enemies chase him out.
- Ongoing sabotage and conflict.

### **3. God's Word Again (Gen 26:24)**

- "Do not be afraid, for I am with you and will bless you."
- Same reassurance given to Abraham.

### **4. Response & Testimony (Gen 26:25–29)**

- Isaac builds altar, worships, digs well.
- Even enemies recognize God's blessing.

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## The Pattern

- Fear of losing life, family, land, or security.
- God's response is consistent: **Do not be afraid, I am with you.**
- His presence and promises outweigh fear's grip.

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## Application

- What fear clings to you right now?
  - Losing something you love?
  - Others sabotaging your work?
  - Facing the unknown?
- God's covenant words: *Do not be afraid, I am with you.*
- Like Abram and Isaac, we worship and trust God in the middle of fear.

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## Takeaway

- Fear is real, but so is God's presence.
- His word to you: *Do not be afraid. I am with you.*
- Action step: Every time fear rises this week, declare:
  - *"Do not be afraid, the Lord is with me."*