

FEARLESS

Embracing A Courageous Faith

Week 1: Living Fearlessly by Pastor Lester Zimmerman

February 7, 2016

Ice Breakers: [15-20 min]

- Consider using the Ice Breaker: [Who's Counting \(click\)](#).
- Have your group answer the statement: "Someone blessed me recently by doing..."

Welcome Video [6 min]

Watch this 6 minute welcome video to get your FEARLESS group started.

[\(FEARLESS Video Click Here.\)](#)

Discussion Questions: [45-60 min]

1. Read an excerpt from *The Fearless Life* book. Begin on page 4 under the header "Let God Challenge You", and finish with the first sentence on page five.
 - ? – The "faith zone" is where we don't have all the answers, and we're uncomfortable, and we've never done this before, and we feel inadequate. What is it about the "faith zone" that makes us so afraid and makes it so difficult for us to leave our "safe zones"?
 - ? – Why do you think God calls us to leave the "safe zone" and live in the "faith zone"?
 - ? – Can you think of the most recent scenario where you made a decision to leave your safe zone and take a risk? What happened? What did you learn from it?
 - ? – On page 4 Jentezen Franklin says "If you're just believing God for things you can do for yourself, you're limiting Him." Do you have a story of how God showed-up-big at a time when all you could see was your inadequacy and the potential for failure?
2. **Read 1 Samuel 14:1-15 out loud together as a large group.**
 - ? – What do we learn about Jonathan's personality and character in these fifteen verses?
 - ? – What do we learn about God through these fifteen verses?
 - ? – Many of us, if we had been in Jonathan's shoes, probably would have made different choices—safer choices. Why; what was it about Jonathan's choices that were so radical and risky?
 - ? – Are you facing any choices right now that could go two ways: "safe" or "risky"?

? – When do you think it’s appropriate to back down from “risk”, and when is it inappropriate to be controlled by the fear of risk?

? – From the text, you’ll notice that Jonathan has a developed sense of confidence in God. In verse 6 Jonathan says *“Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few.”* How do we develop that kind of confidence in God?

? – Notice in verse 7 the support that Jonathan gets from his armor bearer. What role do you think camaraderie and teamwork play in overcoming fear? Do you have any personal examples?

3. On Sunday Pastor Lester said, *“The greatest weapon against fear in our lives is getting in touch with how much God loves us...(many men and women in the Bible) had this love relationship with God that caused them to believe that God was going to take care of them.”*

? – Have you found that to be true in your life?

? – The Apostle John said, “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.” Then how do you cultivate that kind of awareness of God’s love?

Meditation [8 min]

4. On Sunday Pastor Lester encouraged us to “Tell God about our fears. And then put them in his hands.” Take five minutes of personal reflection to evaluate your heart. Check off those fears below that may be controlling you. Also write down any you can think of on your own. Then have someone read these portions of Isaiah 54 [Isaiah 54:2-5, 10, 14-17] out loud as an encouragement to the group.

Fears:

- Fear of failure
- We worry about what other people think of us
- Worry about finances and economic wellbeing
- Fear of being irrelevant
- Fear of being rejected
- Fear for our family’s wellbeing, or about raising children
- Fears about our health and about aging and dying
- Fear of pain, persecution, or danger

Ice Breaker: Who's Counting

Fill in each box with the correct number and then total your score. When everyone is finished, go around the group and explain how you got your total.

Number of wrecks you've been in

Number of pictures on your refrigerator

Number of pets you own

Number of weddings you've been in

Number of times you were sent to the principal's office as a child

Number of televisions in your home

Number of times you've been admitted to the hospital

Number of brothers and sisters you have (including stepbrothers and stepsisters).

Number of volunteer organizations you have helped

Day of the month you were born

= **Grand Total**