

# FEARLESS

## Embracing A Courageous Faith

Week 2: Fearless About Failure by Jim Wetzel

February 14, 2016

### **Ice Breakers:** [15-20 min]

- Consider using the ice breaker: [Hat Trick \(click\)](#).
- Finish this statement, "My idea of a fun time is..."

### **Discussion Questions:** [45-60 min]

1. Here is a list of environments in which we can be susceptible to worrying about failure, rejection, or shame? Talk about how fear negatively affects us in each of these unique environments.
  - a. In my relationships
  - b. In business and the workplace
  - c. In the creative expression of myself
  - d. In my appearance and how people perceive me
  - e. In my personal life goals, ambitions and dreams
  - f. In expectations set for me by; my family, my community, our society
  
2. On Sunday Jim Wetzel said, "When I experience rejection God is still at work in my life."
  - ? – How have you experienced God even in the lowly place of rejection?
  - ? – What do we learn about God when He walks with us through rejection?
  
3. **Read 1 Samuel 15:10-31** keeping this disclaimer in mind. [To our modern perspective there are parts of this passage that are difficult to digest. Our objective in using this passage at this time is to focus on Saul's attitudes and fears, not on the war, or the moral justification of it.]
  - ? – Based on evidence from the text, what do you think were some of the hidden motivations in Saul's heart?
  - ? – And what were the attitudes and behaviors that Saul exhibited based on his motives?
  - ? – Saul was acting on his fears. What impact did that have on himself and other people?
  - ? – Have you ever acted on your fears and then experienced repercussions for that decision?
  - ? – What tends to be the impact on ourselves and others when we act on our fears?

## Testimonial Video [6 min]

Watch this 5 minute testimonial video that shows Pastor Jeremy's perspective on the fear of failure, rejection, and people.

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

4. Here is a montage of quotes from chapter two of *The Fearless Life*.

*"How many people never achieve anything because they are afraid they will look foolish trying...fear will keep you from trying because you might fail. You might look foolish, or you might be rejected...if you are waiting for a perfect time with little or no risk of failure, you will not move into your God-given destiny. It always comes with risk...you can't live a perfect life without making any messes...It is impossible as a human being to eliminate failure from your life. So the real question is: What will you do when you fail?"*

? – We often see failure as negative. But there are also benefits to failure. What are some ways that we can benefit from failure?

? – What are some healthy responses we can have to failure?

? – Is there a situation in your life right now in which you just need to take a risk and not be afraid of failing?

? – Do you have a testimony of a moment in your life you took a risk despite your fear and now you look back and see how much you've grown through it?

## Meditation: [15 min]

Shame and personal rejection are very powerful emotions. They are different from fear of failure, but in many ways can be related. Often we can attach our sense of self-worth to our performance. When we fail we then feel ashamed. The only remedy for this is to remove the lie that our self-worth is based on performance and replace it with the truth of God's undeserved love.

To close your evening in a meditation [\(click here.\)](#)

## Meditation: God's Love, Not Our Performance

**Read each scripture verse out-loud, pausing between each verse to reflect on what the Holy Spirit is saying. Visualize God speaking each verse directly to YOU.**

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. (Psalms 145:8-9)

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that (you) may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. (1 John 3:16)

Love is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. (1 Corinthians 13:5-8) And God is love! (1 John 4:16)

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57)

I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. (Isaiah 41:9)

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. (Isaiah 1:18)

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)

Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you. (Isaiah 54:10)

And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

## Ice Breaker: Hat trick!

Accumulate a list of get-to-know-you questions. Cut each question into slips of paper that can be drawn from a hat. In groups of 7-8 have one person draw a question out of a hat. That person has to answer the first question. Then they pick the next person they want to answer that question. The person that is picked answers the first question then draws a second question out of the hat and answers it as well. They in turn pick the next person they want to answer the question they just selected out of the hat. And so on.

### Possible questions to use:

1. What motivates you to work hard?
2. What two radio stations do you listen to in the car the most?
3. Talk about the most important thing you learned this year.
4. One of the things that brings me the most joy is...
5. What's the longest you've gone without sleep (and why)?
6. If you had a warning label, what would yours say?
7. What quality do you appreciate most in a friend?
8. Who is the most intelligent person you know personally?
9. What is one goal you have for next year?
10. What is one thing you will never do again?
11. If you could share a meal with any 4 individuals, living or dead, who would they be?
12. My favorite time of day is...
13. What is the most beautiful thing you have ever seen? Heard?
14. What are the things you do to enjoy life?
15. My toughest experience this month happened when...
16. What is one memory from this past year that you will never forget?