

Life Group Lesson

SUPERNATURAL • Week of October 23

Introduction

Last week my family and I went to Orlando for fall break. On the property of the resort where we stayed were several *new* giant waterslide tunnels we wanted to try. My husband and I were not about to let the kids outdo us. We climbed the five or six flights of stairs to the top of the slide with our double-man raft and waited our turn to go. I was excited. But to be honest, a little nervous too. Thoughts going through my mind: “What are we thinking? Are we too old for this? Are we too big for this?” About that time, the young lifeguard at the top gave us the thumbs up – our turn. She looked at me through her sunglasses and said, “Are you ready?” I said: “Can we have a word of prayer?” She sort-of smiled, as if to say, “Well, it’s either down the slide or back down the stairs.” So, ready or not, away we went in the tube, down the slide!

In life, sometimes fear can paralyze us. Think of a time you were given a thumbs up – your turn to go – and fear simply immobilized you from the next step. Fear comes in many different ways. There is fear of being rejected, not fitting in or being accepted. There is fear of being hurt, not measuring up, or being mocked. To be sure, there is one fear that is not bad. The Bible says: “Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom (Psalm 111:10a), because there are times the Lord keeps us from certain things. Yet, the Lord does not want us to live *in* fear of fear. We are to live in wisdom, faith and love. “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline” (2 Timothy 1:7). God wants you, His child, to take a step of faith into the adventure, the purpose and call He has for you.

Background

In Paul’s second letter to Timothy, he recalls Timothy’s genuine faith, a faith that first filled his grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice. Timothy’s father is not mentioned; he was Greek and may not have been a believer (see Acts 16:1-3). Paul was a spiritual father to Timothy and opens by expressing how thankful he is for him. From the time they met, Paul saw something special in Timothy; and now, writing from pris-

on, says: ‘Fan into flames the spiritual gifts’ the Lord has given you. Stay the course and ‘never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord’. Paul says, ‘hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me’ and live by faith, not fear. It may have been that Timothy felt inadequate for the post (assignment) to which he had been called, pastoring the church in Ephesus. When you feel inadequate for the task before you, remember Paul’s words to Timothy here in this passage—

“For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was His plan from before the beginning of time—to show us His grace through Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 1:9).

Reading the Text

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-18

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can we help you?

Reflection

If you have professed faith in Christ, you are called to serve others in Christ’s name. It is your turn to step into the purpose God has for you. All of us have natural talents and abilities; but in addition, there are spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit gives us the moment we accept Jesus into our hearts (see Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, Ephesians 4:5-13). The responsibility of pastors and teachers “is to equip God’s people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12). All who have said ‘yes’ to Christ are called to work in Christ’s church, to do their part to help build up the Kingdom of Christ. Paul reminds us that although ministry is an adventure, there will be times when ministry is

challenging. Stay the course; remember "...if we are to share His glory, we must also share His suffering" (Romans 8:17).

In Closing

You can deal with fear through your faith in the risen Christ. Jesus is alive and stands ready and available to strengthen you. The Holy Spirit *wants* to help you live into your baptism. What is holding you back? Give the Lord your fear of shame, past mistakes that cause you to feel 'unworthy' and keep you from serving. Perhaps fear of rejection that has been keeping you from joining a Life Group – maybe you are afraid people will see the 'real you' and be disgusted. That is a lie. Give all fear to the Lord. He loves you and will never forsake you. In Christ, we are a true family. God will strengthen and encourage you as you take your turn, your step of faith.

"And now He has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News. And God chose me to be a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of this Good News"
(2 Timothy 1:10-11).

Close in a Time of Prayer asking:

How can I pray for my fellow Life Group participants this week?

One Year Bible Readings

October 23: Jeremiah 42:1-44:23, 2 Timothy 2:1-21, Psalm 92:1-93:5, Proverbs 26:3-5
October 24: Jeremiah 44:24-47:7, 2 Timothy 2:22-3:17, Psalm 94:1-23, Proverbs 26:6-8
October 25: Jeremiah 48:1-49:22, 2 Timothy 4:1-22, Psalm 95:1-96:13, Prov. 26:9-12
October 26: Jeremiah 49:23-50:46, Titus 1:1-16, Psalm 97:1-98:9, Proverbs 26:13-16
October 27: Jeremiah 51:1-53, Titus 2:1-15, Psalm 99:1-9, Proverbs 26:17
October 28: Jeremiah 51:54-52:34, Titus 3:1-15, Psalm 100:1-5, Proverbs 26:18-19
October 29: Lamentations 1:1-2:22, Philemon 1:1-25, Psalm 101:1-8, Proverbs 26:20

SUPER NATURAL

Text: 2 Timothy 1:5-14

Plain Truth:

Turn your _____ into _____ summits by _____ them with the power of the _____.

- 1. Deal with fear at _____ through _____ in the _____ Christ.**
- 2. Deal with the enemy's strategy to _____ you in your _____.**
- 3. Deal with neglect of _____ and _____ in gifts you already have.**

October 23, 2022