



Small Group Guide: Make Ready week 3 Knocking Out Fear

Opening Question: Share a time when fear held you back from something important. How did it affect you?

Key Takeaways:

1. Fear can be a significant barrier to experiencing God's promises fully.
2. We are called to face our fears rather than flee from them.
3. Courage enables us to live fully until we die.
4. Our faith, not our fears, should shape how we view our future.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions that "Fear can be our Jordan River." What are some modern-day "Jordan Rivers" (fears) that prevent people from moving forward in faith?
2. Romans 8:15 says, "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons." How does our identity as God's children help us overcome fear?
3. Reflect on the story of the monk in the castle. How does this illustrate the importance of facing our fears? Can you share a personal experience where facing a fear led to a positive outcome?
4. The sermon states, "It's possible to die before you die." What do you think this means? How can fear cause us to "die" in certain areas of our lives?
5. Discuss the Apostle Paul's list of hardships in 2 Corinthians 11:23-28. How does his example inspire you to live courageously?
6. How can we cultivate courage in our daily lives? What practical steps can we take?
7. Romans 8:28 says, "And we know all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose." How does this verse help us forecast our future with faith instead of fear?

8. Reflect on the story of the two martyrs. What strikes you most about their faith and courage? How can we apply their perspective to our own challenges?

Practical Applications:

1. Fear Inventory: This week, keep a journal of the fears that surface in your daily life. Next to each fear, write a truth from Scripture that counters it.
2. Courage Challenge: Identify one fear that's holding you back. Make a plan to face it this week, even if it's just a small step. Share your plan with the group for accountability.
3. Faith Forecasting: Each morning this week, start your day by declaring a positive, faith-filled statement about your future based on God's promises.
4. Encouragement Exercise: Reach out to someone you know who is facing a fearful situation. Share an encouraging word or Scripture to help them face their fear with faith.

Closing Prayer: Lord, help us to face our fears with the courage that comes from knowing we are Your children. May we live fully for You, trusting in Your goodness and faithfulness. Give us the strength to forecast our future with faith, not fear. Amen.



Don't let the message end when the service does. Take these questions into your week—ask them at dinner, in the car, on a walk, or online. Let them open doors for faith to grow and for hearts to be stirred toward Jesus.

- How has fear acted as a 'Jordan River' in your own life, preventing you from fully embracing God's promises? What specific fears do you need to confront to move forward in faith?
- In what ways can we cultivate the courage to 'face fear' rather than flee from it in our daily lives? How might our perspective on challenges change if we viewed them as opportunities for growth rather than threats?
- Reflecting on the story of the monk in the castle, how might confronting our fears reveal that they are often not as powerful as we imagine? Can you think of a time when facing a fear led to a surprising or empowering outcome?
- How can we balance the biblical call to 'be faithful unto death' with practical wisdom and self-preservation? What does it look like to 'fully live until you finally die' in today's world?

- Considering Paul's list of hardships in 2 Corinthians 11:23-28, how does his example challenge our modern concepts of comfort and security? What can we learn from his resilience in the face of adversity?
- How might our lives and communities be transformed if we truly embraced the command to 'Be strong and courageous' in the face of cultural and societal challenges?
- In what ways can we practice 'forecasting our future by faith not fear' in our daily decision-making and long-term planning? How might this shift in perspective impact our choices and attitudes?
- Reflecting on the story of the two martyrs from Foxe's Book of Martyrs, how does their faith challenge our own commitment to our beliefs? What would it mean for us to have that level of conviction in today's context?
- How can we cultivate a perspective that sees beyond our current circumstances to the eternal promises of God, as demonstrated by the blind and lame martyrs? What practices might help us maintain this eternal perspective?
- In light of Romans 8:28, how can we train ourselves to see God's goodness and purpose even in challenging or fearful situations? Can you share an experience where you've seen this verse come to life in your own journey?

**Day 1: Facing Our Fears**

Reading: Joshua 1:1-9

Devotional: As we begin this journey, we're reminded of Joshua standing at the edge of the Promised Land, facing the raging Jordan River. Like Joshua, we often encounter our own "Jordan Rivers" - obstacles that seem insurmountable. But God's words to Joshua echo through time to us: "Be strong and courageous." Today, identify a fear that's holding you back from fully embracing God's promises. Remember, you haven't received a spirit of fear, but of sonship (Romans 8:15). How might your perspective shift if you viewed this fear through the lens of being God's beloved child? Take a moment to pray, asking God for the courage to face your fear head-on, trusting in His presence and power.

Day 2: Living Fully in Christ

Reading: Philippians 1:20-30

Devotional: Paul's words in Philippians remind us of the call to "fully live until we finally die." Despite facing numerous hardships and dangers, Paul remained committed to living boldly for Christ. Today, reflect on areas of your life where you might be "dying" little deaths due to fear or complacency. What would it look like to live fully for Christ in those areas? Consider the courage of martyrs throughout history who valued their faith above their very lives. While we may not face such extreme circumstances, how can we cultivate that same level of devotion in our daily lives? Ask God to ignite a passion within you to live each day to its fullest for His glory.

Day 3: Faith Over Fear

Reading: Romans 8:28-39

Devotional: Today's passage reminds us that God works all things for good for those who love Him. This truth allows us to "forecast our future by faith, not fear." Like the two martyrs in John Foxe's account who saw their impending death as a gateway to new eyes

and legs in Christ, we too can view our challenges through the lens of faith. What situation in your life currently seems bleak or hopeless? How might your perspective change if you truly believed God was working it for your good? Take time to meditate on verses 38-39, letting the assurance of God's unshakeable love sink deep into your heart. Let this love be the foundation from which you face life's uncertainties.

Day 4: Courage in the Face of Adversity

Reading: 2 Corinthians 11:23-33

Devotional: Paul's list of hardships is staggering, yet through it all, he remained faithful to his calling. This passage challenges us to cultivate courage in the face of adversity. Reflect on a time when you've experienced God's strength in your weakness. How did that experience shape your faith? Today, identify an area where you need courage - perhaps in sharing your faith, making a difficult decision, or persevering through a trial. Remember, courage isn't the absence of fear, but the decision to move forward despite it. Pray for God's Spirit to fill you with holy boldness, trusting that His power is made perfect in your weakness.

Day 5: Embracing Our Identity in Christ

Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Devotional: As we conclude this week's devotional, let's focus on our true identity in Christ. The story of the monks facing their fears in the castle reminds us that often, what we fear most is a distorted reflection of ourselves. In Christ, we are chosen, adopted, redeemed, and sealed with the Holy Spirit. How might fully embracing this identity change the way you approach your fears and challenges? Today, take time to write down the truths about your identity in Christ found in this passage. When faced with fear or doubt, return to these truths as a reminder of who you truly are in Him. Close in prayer, thanking God for His lavish love and asking for the grace to live boldly as His beloved child.

