



MARCH 2023

**TAKE COURAGE**

I AM SO GLAD THAT YOU ARE  
STARTING THIS JOURNEY  
TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE IN  
YOUR SMALL GROUP. IN THE  
COMING WEEKS, MY PRAYER IS  
THAT YOUR FRIENDSHIPS WILL  
GROW STRONG AS YOU WALK,  
TALK, AND PRAY FOR EACH OTHER.

THE WORLD TODAY PROVIDES  
MANY REASONS TO BE AFRAID,  
BUT THANK GOD THAT WE HAVE A  
SAVIOUR WHO BOTH TELLS US TO  
TAKE COURAGE AND GIVES US  
EVERY REASON TO BE ABLE TO  
TAKE HIM AT HIS WORD.

NO MATTER WHAT SITUATION YOU  
MAY BE FACING, OR WHERE YOUR  
RELATIONSHIP IS WITH GOD, I AM  
CONVINCED THAT JESUS'  
COMMAND TO "TAKE COURAGE" IS  
NEEDED MORE TODAY THAN EVER  
BEFORE.

SHANE STEWART  
CONNECTIONS PASTOR

# INTRODUCTION

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**WE AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING AS A GROUP:**

- **Attendance:** To give priority to the group meeting and respect start and end times.
- **Safety:** To help create a safe place where people can be heard and not judged.
- **Unconditional acceptance.**
- **Focused Attention:** When you are sharing, you won't have to fight for my eyes.
- **Confidentiality:** To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential.
- **Accountability:** To give permission to group members to hold each other accountable and to recommend further pastoral help when needed. Not partaking in anything that may be a stumbling block for someone else in the group.
- **Responsibility:** To share in the practical, social and outreach roles and responsibilities which are agreed upon for the group.

**It is important to remember these key things:**

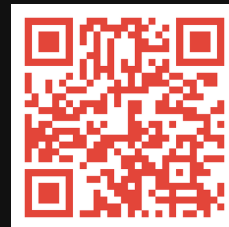
- Share your own thoughts, feelings and actions when they are asked for and respect others in the group who will also want to share. NO FIXING, ADVISING OR RESCUING.
- Keep our language non-offensive, encouraging, clean and non-judgemental.
- It is important to avoid giving graphic descriptions about your situation and respect group boundaries.
- It is important to respect the start and finish time of each group meeting in order to respect the hospitality of the person hosting. i.e. Don't overstay your welcome.

**In our church, healthy Small Groups aim to fulfill the following purposes:**

- **LOVE:** It is easy to feel alone in a crowd. Small Groups are an open door into the life of our church family. When you are in a Small Group, you experience the love and strength of Biblical community. Small Groups are encouraged to pray for each other, support in times of crises and celebrate life's big moments together.
- **LIFT:** A loving community of people who notice when you are away, gently sharpen you when you need it and who help you share your faith with others. Small Groups are the place you can grow to become more like Jesus and to live a faith-filled life. We want to see you grow, flourish and become all that God has called you to be!
- **LAUNCH:** We believe that every person is created with God-given potential to make a difference in the world. Small Groups help you realize your spiritual gifts and challenge you to use them in serving others both inside and outside the 4 walls of the church. Small Groups are a place where there are like-minded people who believe in you. This is how leaders are developed!

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN:**

This week's video can be found at [faithwelland.com/takecourage](http://faithwelland.com/takecourage) or by scanning the QR Code on the right

**GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER**

Take a minute to introduce yourselves

- many of you will know each other or have some connection already, however, make sure to say your name for everyone to hear.
- play two truths and a lie
  - say three things about yourself
  - two need to be true, and one needs to be a lie (but don't tell people which ones are true and which one isn't).
  - Then get everyone to guess which one isn't true.
  - Give everyone in the group to have a turn

**DISCUSSION QUESTION #1**

- Do you like being scared, or do you hate it? If you do, what type of "being scared" do you enjoy? If you don't, why not?

**EXODUS 20:20**

"Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."

**DISCUSSION QUESTION #2**

- How can fear be a good thing?

**DISCUSSION QUESTION #3**

- How can fear be a bad thing?

## WRITE IT DOWN:

Do you have something that is keeping you up at night?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## REVELATION 12:11

"They triumphed over him  
by the blood of the Lamb  
and by the word of their testimony"

## DISCUSSION QUESTION #4

- How have you seen the goodness of God in your life?

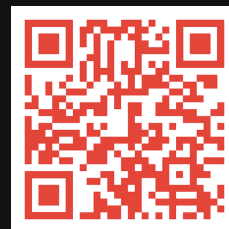
## DISCUSSION QUESTION #5

- Is there a specific week you are looking forward to most throughout this series, or anything you hope gets covered?

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**DISCUSSION QUESTION #1:**

- How has your week been?

**KEY VERSE:**

"But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."  
 – Matthew 14:27 –

**2 KINGS 6:8-23****DISCUSSION QUESTION #2**

- Have you ever known something that you couldn't know, and it was God helping you?

**DISCUSSION QUESTION #3**

- Has God ever sent you into a storm, or something that is difficult that you normally would run away from?
  - What did you discover in the storm?

**DISCUSSION QUESTION #4**

- Have you experienced the presence of God in a storm?
  - What was the first thing that happened in the presence of God in the storm?
  - What happened next?

## DISCUSSION QUESTION #4

- Looking back at previous storms you have gone through with Jesus, can you see how God was doing something more than just getting you through the storm?
  - Would you be willing to share?

## DISCUSSION QUESTION #5

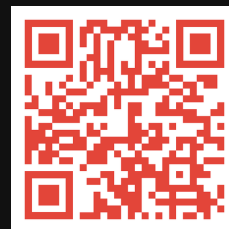
- Do you (or someone you love) find yourself in a place now where you are looking at storm water? Maybe you find yourself in the middle of the storm now?
  - If so, how can we pray as a group for you?

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_



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**DISCUSSION QUESTION #1:**

- How has your week been?

**KEY VERSE:**

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

– John 16:33 –

**DISCUSSION QUESTION #2:**

- If you could give one gift to five different people, what one gift would you give (if cost wasn't a concern), and what five people would you give it to?
  - It can be an object or it can be an experience, but each person gets the same thing.
  - If it's an experience, all five experience it together.
  - If it's an object, all five get their own.

**GENESIS 15:1-7****DISCUSSION QUESTION #3**

- When was the last time you experienced something awe-inspiring that made you feel small? (What was it?)

## DISCUSSION QUESTION #4

- What is the longest you've waited for a promise?
  - What was it?

Take a second and write down an area where you might be experiencing “trouble,” or starting to struggle like Abraham was, just for your own records. It could be focussed like a laser (like “this specific situation”) or general (like “unease” or money).

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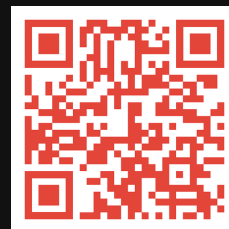
## DISCUSSION QUESTION #5

- What trouble do you have?
  - Can we pray for God to:
    - solve the trouble
    - Give you strength and endurance
    - Strengthen the hope of future promise in your life
  -

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**DISCUSSION QUESTION #1:**

- How has your week been?

**KEY VERSE:**

"Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

– Matthew 5:36 –

**DISCUSSION QUESTION #2:**

- What has been your experience with healing?
  - Have you seen God heal someone?

**2 Kings 5****DISCUSSION QUESTION #3:**

- How comfortable are you when someone asks you to pray for their healing?
  - Why do you think that is?

**DISCUSSION QUESTION #4:**

- Is there anything you can't ask God for?

READ:

“Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! 5 Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near. 6 Don’t be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. 7 Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.”

– Phillipians 4:4-/-

Underline the words “all of” in verse 6.

Write down a request for healing, or a request for God. When you get an answer, come back to this page and write down what happened in your life as a result of that answer.

- If the answer is yes, show how it rippled out from you.
  - If the answer is no, show how God's answer produced something good for you and/or others.
- if the answer is not yet, show how God has transformed you in the process.

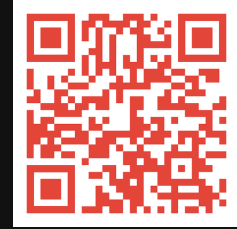
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## DISCUSSION QUESTION #5

- Do you have a request for healing that you would be comfortable sharing with your group?
  - Take a few minutes and pray for each other

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**DISCUSSION QUESTION #1:**

- How has your week been?

**KEY VERSE:**

Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."

– Matthew 9:2 –

**JONAH****DISCUSSION QUESTION #2:**

- In our world today, can you think of countries that might feel towards each other the way Jonah felt towards Ninevah?
  - Which ones, and if necessary, why?

**DISCUSSION QUESTION #3:**

- Have someone do a quick recap of the story of Jonah for the benefit of the group

**DISCUSSION QUESTION #4:**

- If you were Jonah, how would you tell the story?
  - What would you leave in? what would you take out?

## DISCUSSION QUESTION #5

- What are some ways that a person could remove obstacles for an enemy?

## DISCUSSION QUESTION #5

- Is there someone God is calling you towards that you would rather run from?
  - How can wisdom and courage work together?

## DISCUSSION QUESTION #5

- Is there someone God is calling you towards that you would rather run from?
  - How can wisdom and courage work together?

Pray for each other's people and situations.

Over the course of this series, we have looked at fear and faith, at how God is in control, at how God has given us a future promise despite present troubles, at healing, and at faith to remove obstacles from the presence of God.

**DISCUSS:** What has stood out to you over the course of this small group? What has been a highlight or favorite part for you?

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# WEEK FOUR

NOTES:



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