



Sermon Discussion Guide

“FREEDOM FROM FEAR”

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Icebreaker: Ware you afraid of?

THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE.

OUR DESIRE IS THAT YOU WOULD USE THIS “GUIDE” TO LEAD YOU INTO DEEPER PERSONAL STUDY.

“I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.” (Psalm 34:4)

“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with My righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)

What scares you? When we ask children this question, they will often mention fear of the dark, or spiders, or getting lost. Teens and adults are more experienced and tend to mention bigger risks, such as mass shootings, a natural disaster (often called an “act of God”), or anything that could rob us of life—either our own or that of a loved one.

Our Creator God knows how we are made and how fear can cripple us. In the Bible the message “Do not fear” occurs some 365 times, in one phrasing or another. The prophet Isaiah, speaking God’s words to God’s chosen people, encourages Israel to trust God—even though they will suffer in captivity—and not to fear, because God has an amazing rescue plan.

When we lose our job, learn that we have a serious illness, face a big financial loss, or watch a family member make dangerous choices, we naturally experience fear for the future. What is going to happen to us—or to them? How will we get through this?

King David reminds us in (Psalm 34:4) that God is faithful to deliver us and God’s words in Isaiah invite us to look at the big picture, the overarching story. Our God promises, in effect, “I am with you; I am your God; I will strengthen you and help you. My right hand will take hold of your right hand, so do not be dismayed.” (Isaiah 41:10)

-some parts excerpted from: Today, February 3, 2020

Questions:

1. Rewrite (Isaiah 41:10) in your own words and make it as personal and as revealing as you can. What has God reminded you of?
2. I jokingly asked in the icebreaker, “What scares you, what are you afraid of?” But honestly, what is it that causes you fear? You know the thing that keeps you from trusting others or even God.
3. How do you normally deal with the fear you identified? How does God want you to deal with it? Why is it hard for you to trust God with it?
4. Maybe you’re having a hard time trusting God because you’ve never trusted Him as your personal Savior. It’s time for you to trust Him with your life and soul. Contact me at <mailto:ruben@svccfamily.org> so I can share with you how you can do that.

