

Sermon Based Small Group Guide
For January 16, 2022 sermon:
"Fear not: God is with you"

Warm up:

1. Share a time when you chose to be courageous – perhaps a time when you overcame a long-held fear. What was the source of your courage?
2. Other than your spouse (if you are married), who is someone that you really trust and why do you trust them to the degree that you do?

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes)

1. Joshua was no wimp! We are first introduced to him in Exodus 17 when he is told by Moses to put together an army to fight the Amalekites. Even in this battle there was a lesson that God wanted to teach Joshua. Read Exodus 17:8-14. What happened that day and what do you think the lesson was for Joshua?
2. Joshua was so close to Moses that he was drawn close into the very intimate relationship that Moses had with God. In Exodus 24, Joshua went with Moses up the mountain when the 10 commandments and law were given. In Exodus 33, he goes to a special tent outside of the Israelite encampment where Moses met with God. Read Exodus 33:7-11. Commentators believe that Joshua stayed behind when Moses left the tent to keep the Israelites from trying to access this tent, but what kind of impact do you think it would have had on him to be so near the presence of God in these instances?
3. In Numbers 13-14, Joshua and Caleb are the only two (of twelve) spies who trust God more than their own eyes. Read Numbers 14:5-9 and point out what they understand about why the Israelites should be confident, not acting in fear.
4. Finally, read Joshua 1:1-9 and answer the following questions:
 - Do you think Joshua was "scared" in the way we usually think of it? (Is it possible that the greater challenge will be leading his own people, even more than defeating their enemies?)
 - What conditions for blessing and victory does God give?
 - Why shouldn't Joshua be fearful about his role and the path ahead?

Apply it: (10 minutes)

What are some of your fears? What promises from God's word can give you strength and courage to overcome your fears? How might your fears become an opportunity for God to display his power and gain glory? Share needs/requests then pray together.