



struggles

Small Group Questions Week 4

1. How would you answer Jesus' question: Why are you afraid? What are some things in your life or in this world that cause you fear? Read Luke 12:4-7 together. What did Jesus say you should fear? What do you think he meant? Why did he then say his disciples should not be afraid?
2. Read Mark 4:35-41. Why should the disciples have not been afraid? What should we learn from this story? Why do you think that the disciples questioned whether Jesus cared about the danger they were in? Is there anything in your life, or someone you know, that has caused you at times to wonder if God cares?
3. Is having fear sinful? What are some sinful ways that we respond to fear? What do you think is the Biblical way to handle fear? Can you think of any Bible verses that instruct us how to handle fear?

Answer— It is not sinful to feel fear, it is an emotion like any other emotion. What is sinful is when we respond to our fear in a way that we should not. Here are some verses that talk about how to handle fear, show your group as many of them as you would like: Psalm 56:3,4; 46:1-3; 27:1; 118:6; Proverbs 3:21-24; Isaiah 12:2; John 14:27; Romans 8:15; 1 John 4:18; Matthew 6:25-33.

4. Since fear is a human emotion, and God created us, there must be times when fear is a healthy emotion. When do you think it is good to have fear?
5. Read Joshua 1:1-9 together. What were the circumstances Joshua was facing? What promises did God give to Joshua to overcome his fears? Do you think that bravery is the opposite of fear? How is bravery commonly defined in relation to fear? Have there been any times that you have had to be brave? Do you think it requires bravery to live the way God instructs us in the Bible? Why or why not?

Answer— Bravery is the opposite of fear. You have probably heard the definition of bravery that is common: Bravery is not the absence of fear but the determination to go ahead and do something even though we are afraid. It takes bravery to live like a Christian in this world as more and more people think that if you disagree with how they live, you are racist, or hateful because you say their lifestyle is immoral. The disciples faced death for living that way.