



Fearless Living in a Fearful World

April 5, 2020

#newpointechurch

Bottom Line: Fear not—I am with you.

Icebreaker: Do you have a fear other people think is irrational? What is it? Do you remember how the fear started?

Key Verse: *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.* Isaiah 41:10 NIV

Jesus has invited us, actually urged us, to allow Him to be our Shepherd. It's the only way to live a full life. If we are not led by Jesus, we will be led by the imposter, fear. Fear will steal our joy, kill our hope, and destroy our peace. But when God is with us, we have no need to fear.

Still, we all battle fear for many reasons. Fear causes us to envision the future without hope. It's not always rational, but it is always powerful. Fear promotes a false gospel that twists the truth, and it presents itself most often when something prevents us from getting what we want. Fear turns us into false prophets, and we agonize over a future that won't happen. It invites us to follow a path of self-preservation, and instead of saving our lives, we end up losing the impact our lives could make. When we retreat to our fears, we squander the opportunity to do something extraordinary in this season of life that will never come again.

Psalm 23 is an eloquent and practical description of the Good Shepherd's leadership in our lives. He will meet all my needs if I trust Him (security and supply). He will teach me to relax when I am stressed out (rest). He will replenish my strength when I'm empty (healing). He will guide me when I am confused and indecisive (faithfulness and protection). He will be good to me, no matter what happens (confidence and favor). In the end there is heaven—I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever!

Everything may not be okay, but if you know Jesus is with you, you will be okay. If you know Jesus as your Shepherd, you know His voice (John 10:27-29). Listen. Let Him speak peace to you. Fear not. God is with you.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

What causes you to fear most?

Fear in the mind causes stress in the body. How have you experienced this?

Fear is not always a sin, but it always is an opportunity to trust God. How have you experienced this?

Fear will cause you to try to preserve your own life. If you do that, you won't be able to save your life nor have anything to show for your life. Reflect and discuss.

Fear makes us forget that God is with us. When is the last time you did that? How did you get yourself back to a place of trust?

Jesus said that if you know the truth it will set you free. The truth is that God has not abandoned you and He never will. What evidence do you have (Scripture, experience) that affirms that truth?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

We are afraid in every situation that we might die. But the worst-case scenario is that we'd go to be with Jesus sooner than we expected. Does this comfort you? Why or why not? What does that tell you about yourself?

In the 23rd Psalm, the rod represents power and authority. The staff represents care and compassion. In the current fear that you battle most, which of these are most significant?

How is God teaching you to relax and restore?

How are you learning to replenish your strength?

How are you learning to access His guidance?

If you are not learning those things, why?

How do you recognize the voice of Jesus? How would you explain hearing Jesus to a brand-new believer?

NEXT STEPS

1. Own your fears, then tell yourself this truth: I need not fear. God is with me.
2. Look for evidence today that God is with you. Celebrate and thank Him.
3. Call someone you know who is fighting fear, and encourage them that God is with them.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Fear not—I am with you.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Deuteronomy 31:8

Tuesday: Romans 8:28

Wednesday: Isaiah 43:1

Thursday: 1 John 4:18

Friday: Psalm 27:1-2, 10

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)