



“After some time had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night so that they might kill him; but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

When he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple.

But Barnabas took him, brought him to the apostles, and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.

So he went in and out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. He spoke and argued with the Hellenists; but they were attempting to kill him. When the believers learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.”

Acts 9:23-31

Fear Factor

1. The absence of fear can _____ to _____

2. The answer is not to _____ fear but hold the correct _____ of fear

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
Proverbs 1:7

“The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life,
so that one may avoid the snares of death.”
Proverbs 14:27

3. Fear is _____, living in fear is _____
Genesis 20:11-13; Numbers 13:31-14:9; Isaiah 30:1-2

Courageous Faith

1. We cannot follow the _____ of Barnabas apart from the _____ of _____
John 14:16, 26; Acts 4:36

2. Sometimes we’re _____ and sometimes we’re the _____
2 Corinthians 7:5-6

3. One faith filled act of _____ can redirect the _____ of many
Act 9:31

Memory Verse

“I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!”
Luke 12:4-5

MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS TO . . .

- Invite Jesus to be my Lord and Savior for the first time today
- Memorize Luke 12:4-5
- Ask God to show me the areas in my life where I’m living and reacting out of fear rather than faith
- Pray that God bring people into my life who He can use to encourage me in my fears
- Ask God to lead in me into opportunities where my encouragement can inspire courage in others



Discussion Questions - Week #8

LIFEGROUPS

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend, "The Barnabas Factor", summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

Was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Is there any practical step you plan on taking this week in response to the message?

GETTING STARTED

▶ As this will be the last Life Group meeting before Thanksgiving, share one or two things you have been most thankful for this year.

▶ What's your favorite thing about the Thanksgiving Holiday?

▶ As Pastor Andrew shared, fear can be a good thing, so we don't want to eliminate all our fears. But if you could wave a magic wand and eliminate one of your fears, what would it be?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Psalm 91. What stands out to you or speaks to you in this passage?

How could the words of this Psalm be a source of comfort in the face of fear?

How could making God our dwelling place and refuge enable us to be a source of encouragement to others?

What sources other than God do you go to when you are fearful?

How might praying this prayer regularly help you to face your fears faithfully?

2. Read Matthew 14:22-33. What do you think Peter did right in this passage, and what do you think he did wrong?

How does this story of Peter on the water connect with the disciple's fear in Jerusalem?

Are any storms in your life today drawing your attention from Jesus?

Is there any area in your life where Jesus may be inviting you to step out of the boat?

What can you do to develop the habit of focusing on Jesus rather than the wind and the waves?

FOR PRACTICE

In Mark 2, we're told the story of four friends carrying a paralytic to Jesus. Undaunted by their inability to enter the house, they climb to the roof, peel back a section, and lower him before the Lord. In addition to emphasizing Jesus' authority to forgive sins, the passage also speaks powerfully about the role of community. In our spiritual lives, sometimes we carry, and sometimes we're on the mat. Particularly with our fears. When receiving a negative diagnosis, experiencing the loss of a loved one, or so many other terrifying moments, we need friends who, amid our fears, will bring us to Jesus. As a community practice this week, consider sharing with your group members the things that stir the deepest fears in you and are most likely to take your eyes off Jesus.

SHARE IT

Is there anything you heard or learned in the weekend message or Life Group this week that you want to share with someone you know?

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for Christians in China. Unregistered or "illegal" churches have experienced significantly increased persecution directed by the national government in Beijing. Pray for the encouragement of Chinese believers and for Pastors and leaders to stand firmly in faith amid incredible pressures.