



Small Group Guide Week 5 INTRO: “What if you weren’t afraid anymore?” (p. 185) What if you weren't afraid of what people would say if you openly shared your faith, or if you gave God control over your finances? What if you weren't afraid to let go of your agenda to help someone in trouble? Simply put, fear keeps us from listening to Jesus' voice. Be not afraid. Follow your Shepherd's voice into new territory.

1. When you were a kid, what were you afraid of?

READ 2 Timothy 1:6–12

1. How would you describe the Gospel in one sentence?
2. Is the call to join in suffering for every Christian or just for some?
3. Why is Timothy unashamed of his suffering? Would you feel the same way?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think your faith tends to be fearless or safe/timid?
2. Are you scared to love fearlessly? Why? What do you have to gain and lose?
3. In Uganda, people are afraid to confront the power of witch doctors. What powers are we afraid to confront locally?
4. What would your faith look like if you accepted God's call to “be not afraid?”
5. For Bob, witch doctors felt beyond love. Who feels beyond love to you?

OUTRO: Loving fearlessly is difficult because we like to maintain our comfortable distance from complex people and situations. Yet when we hold onto the “good life” we've built, the power of the gospel stalls. Do not fear what you will lose when you love people or suffer on their behalf. God equips whom God calls. You, my friend, are called.

PRAY TOGETHER:

Pray that the Spirit would bring you courage and power.