

## Facing Your Fears

Joshua 1:1-9

### **FINDING YOUR FEARS**

- What if \_\_\_\_\_ happens?

### **FACING YOUR FEARS**

Joshua 1:1-9, 5:13-15, Numbers 13 & 14, John 14:23, 15:1-17, 2 Timothy 1:7

- Strength and courage come from the choices we make, more than the feelings we have.
  - ✓ “Do not be afraid” 120 times!
  - ✓ “Do not fear” 131 times!
- Obedience will always precede God’s blessing.
- God’s blessings are:
  - ✓ His presence
  - ✓ His provision
  - ✓ A huge home

### **THE BOTTOM LINE**

1 Samuel 4:1-11, Matthew 7:21-23, Romans 8:12-17, 8:28

- Our confidence is not in Christ, but where we are in Christ.

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 25, 2009

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**QUICK REVIEW** – Take a minute to look back over your sermon notes or any of the verses that Chris mentioned. Is there a particular truth, application or part of the message that challenged you or caught your attention?

## MY STORY

1. Have you ever thought about heaven and the home that God is preparing for His children? What questions would you like to ask God about that place and what it will be like?

2. Have you ever experienced God's presence in the midst of a trial, problem or scary situation? If so, what was it like?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Pastor Chris helped us see that true strength and courage in the face of fear are more about the choices we make than the feelings we have. Read Numbers 13:26 – 14:9 and take a look over Joshua's shoulder as he and an advance team of spies report back to the Israelites about what obstacles they would face in taking possession of the promised land. What choices did Joshua and Caleb make that enabled them to stand with courage while others retreated in fear?

### Numbers 13:26-14:9

They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. [27] They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. [28] But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. [29] The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan."

[30] Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."

[31] But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." [32] And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. [33] We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

[14:1] That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. [2] All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! [3] Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder.

Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" [4] And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

[5] Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. [6] Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes [7] and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. [8] If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. [9] Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them." [NIV]

Take another look at what was really at stake for the Israelites and try to put yourself in their shoes. Now think about your answer to: "What if \_\_\_\_\_ happens?" from your sermon notes. Do you relate more with Joshua and Caleb or the other 10 spies?

What choices could you make in the midst of your own circumstances that would help you be "strong and courageous"?

2. It's important for us to understand the difference between God's unconditional love that we can't earn or deserve and His blessings that have the condition of our obedience. Check out the following passages and jot down some blessings that God wants to give us and what part we play in receiving them.

	Blessings / God's Part	Conditions / Our Part
<p><b>1 Corinthians 10:13</b>            No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. [NIV]</p>		
<p><b>1 John 1:9</b>            If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. [NIV]</p>		
<p><b>John 14:15-18</b>            "If you love me, you will obey what I command. [16] And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- [17] the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. [18] I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. [NIV]</p>		
<p><b>John 15:14-17</b>            You are my friends if you do what I command. [15] I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. [16] You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. [17] This is my command: Love each other. [NIV]</p>		

Joshua and the Israelites could have easily made some excuses to not obey God when He told them to march around Jericho (Joshua 6:1-5). What are some of the common excuses people use today to not obey God?

**Joshua 6:1-5**

Now Jericho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.

[2] Then the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. [3] March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six

days. [4] Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. [5] When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up, every man straight in." [NIV]

3. The whole "FEARLESS" sermon series is rooted in God's word that has 251 reminders to not fear or be afraid. We can be truly confident, strong, and courageous because of where we are in Christ. At the same time we are told to fear God. How can we reconcile what God told Joshua in Joshua 1:9 and what John wrote in Revelation 14:6-7?

#### **Joshua 1:9**

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." [NIV]

#### **Revelation 14:6-7**

Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth--to every nation, tribe, language and people. [7] He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water." [NIV]

#### **TAKING IT HOME**

1. Is there anything from this week's sermon or study that can help you face a current or future fear?

2. Take a minute and ask God if there is any area where He would like you to obey Him.