**Do Not Be Afraid!**

**Part 1**

**Scriptures**

- **Joshua 1:9**
  9Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

- **Genesis 3:10**
  10He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

- **Mark 4:37-40**
  37And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. 38Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" 39And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. 40And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

- **Isaiah 43:1-3**
  1But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! 2When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you. 3For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place.

- **Isaiah 8:11-14**
  11For thus the Lord spoke to me with mighty power and instructed me not to walk in the way of this people, saying, 12You are not to say, 'It is a conspiracy!' In regard to all that this people call a conspiracy, And you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of it. 13It is the Lord of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, And He shall be your dread. 14Then He shall become a sanctuary; But to both the houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, And a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

- **1 John 4:18**
  18There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

**Other Scriptures**

- Psalm 91:7
- Numbers 13
- Matthew 11:12
- Ephesians 2:8
- Philippians 3:1
- Psalm 37:5
Main Points

- Faith overcomes fear
  - The remedy for fear is faith!
  - When we choose to press into faith, fear is dissipated.

- God is bigger than whatever you are afraid of
  - Choosing not to be afraid is really about loving God.
  - Perfect love casts out fear, and when we accept that God is love and He is perfect, then we have no choice other than to love instead of live in fear.

- Fear gets in the way of our relationship with the LORD

Discussion Questions

1. What are you afraid of? Once you have identified your fears, bring them before the LORD and resolve how to live in freedom from fear.

2. Discuss a time when you chose to have faith instead of fear, and how God honored you for it.

3. Why does fear keep us from becoming closer to God? (Hint: see 1 John 4:18)

4. Why are we commanded not to get distracted by conspiracy (Isaiah 8:11-14)?