



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Winter Quarter - Lesson 1 - Week of January 23, 2022

Lesson: DON'T GIVE UP – BE BOLD, STRONG, AND COURAGEOUS

Bible Verses: Daniel 6:10-23; Esther 4; Isaiah 60:1-3; II Chronicles 32:7-8; Joshua 1:18; Deuteronomy 31:6-8; I Chronicles 28:20; I Chronicles 22:13; Joshua 1:1-9

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- Are you ready to rise above your fears and be strong and courageous?
- Do you allow circumstances to influence your mood in life?

INTRODUCTION

In some seasons of our lives, we might be tempted to give up. The challenges may seem too big or our confidence is too low to face them. Situations we are facing make us fearful, and we start thinking that we don't have what it takes to overcome our challenges. We are tempted to go and hide somewhere to avoid facing our fears. We might even believe that thoughts of withdrawing are humble thoughts. However, the humility God wants from us is not thinking less of ourselves or feeling wiped out and powerless. He wants us to embrace who He says we are, to rise up, and to do what He says we can do. Have you ever faced situations that you were tempted to give up on because of the difficulties of overcoming those situations?

The enemy likes to play around with your mind. He wants to destroy you and make you powerless. He wants to crush your sense of identity in Christ which, in turn, will take away your boldness. He wants you to feel fearful and small so that you will not do any harm to his evil plans.

DISCUSSION

DON'T MISS THE PLAN OF GOD.

God has a good plan for us. But if we are always bowing down to our fears and low self-esteem, we might miss it. This happened to the people of Israel. They had been slaves under the Egyptians for 400 years. God sent Moses to tell Pharaoh to let the people go, and after some time of strong resistance and many plagues, Pharaoh finally released them. God did great miracles through the parting of the Red Sea and taking them through to dry land while the Egyptian soldiers who followed them drowned; He fed them in the desert; and they saw God's faithfulness and help every day.

God had a great plan for them. He prepared a great land for them where they could live in abundance. However, there were great giants in the Promised Land (recall this lesson in the book of Exodus). Spies were sent to spy out the land. It's essential for us to see that when the ten spies came back from spying out the land, they said, "We were like grasshoppers in their sight."

The truth was that the people (and giants) that lived in the promised land were terrified of the people of Israel because they heard about everything God had done to deliver them from the Egyptians.

We know that God has a plan and a good future for us just like He did for the children of Israel. However, this plan is too big for us to accomplish in our own strength. If we can do it without God, it is probably not God's plan. We will meet hindrances that we can't break through on our own. We will need God's power and intervention. In these situations, let us not lose our faith and trust in God. Let us not bow down to our fears or low self-esteem.

1. The Israelites listened to the ten fearful spies with a bad report which cost them their destiny. What can we learn from this?
2. How can we focus on opportunities and potential outcomes that are positive instead of the bad reports?

We see throughout the Bible that God's people faced scary and impossible situations:

1. David really had to face his fears. He was faced with the giant, Goliath, but he was brave enough to stand against him and kill him. Later, David was at risk again as he was hunted in the wilderness by Saul for many years.
2. Esther was positioned as the one to save her people when they were in danger of being killed. She rose up and did what she had to do even though she knew her life was at risk (Esther chapter 4).
3. Daniel was thrown to the lions because he prayed to God against the order of the king (Daniel 6:10-23).

There are many more examples of men and women in Scripture who refused to bow down to fear but instead rose up to face their challenges head on. God never promised us an easy life, but He did promise us that HE will always be with us. Is there an area in your life where you know that you should step up, arise, and shine, but fear is stopping you (fear of failure, fear of people, etc.)?

ARISE.

Arise! Throughout the Old Testament, when God gave someone an assignment or calling, He told them to ARISE. Jeremiah was told to prepare himself and arise (Jeremiah 1:17). Joshua was told to arise and enter the promised land with the new generation (Joshua 1:1-2).

Read Isaiah 60:1-3. We are told to arise and shine because Jesus, our Light, has already come. We arise into what He has prepared for us, into who He says we are, and into our identity in Christ. Do you believe that you are who Jesus says you are?

BE COURAGEOUS AND STRONG.

Throughout scripture, we see God speaking these words to His people to encourage them: Be strong and of good courage. Read Joshua 1:1-9. What are these scriptures teaching us today?

Read II Chronicles 32:7-8; I Chronicles 22:13; and I Chronicles 28:20. We can see from these verses that the Lord wants us to be strong and courageous, not afraid or dismayed. Why do these words need to be repeated over and over throughout scripture?

Let us face our fears, arise, and shine! Let us arise into our destiny with courage, strength, boldness, and confidence in the Lord, knowing that He will always be with us to help us fight our battles.

Keys To Remember

1. God will always be with us.
2. God wants to fight our battles with us.
3. We must trust God more than we trust the negative reports that we receive.
4. God has called us to be courageous.
5. You have an assignment from God, and He is trusting that you will complete it.
6. God has a plan for your life.

Prayer Focus

Father, help me to trust your plan more than I trust my own.