

THE PROMISE OF *Peace*

TALK IT OVER

Facing My Fear

The Promise of Peace - Part 3

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If you would like to watch the weekend message, visit www.saddleback.com/watch.

Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions toward the end of the document.

Scriptures Used

Isaiah 26:3 (NIV84); Isaiah 26:3-4 (NIV); Joshua 1:1-9 (NIV84); Joshua 1:8-9 (NIV); Psalm 91:1-2 (NIV84); Joel 2:25-26 (NKJV); Psalm 23:4-5 (NIV); 1 John 4:18 (NIV)

Questions:

1. Isaiah 26:3 (NIV84) says, "You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you." The Hebrew "shalom, shalom" translated "perfect peace" in this verse means both "perfect peace" and also "wholeness" of life. How do we experience God's promise of peace according to this verse? How does this help us with facing our fear?
2. Living in fear is demonic at its core because fear imagines a future without God. Faith envisions a future with God—a God who lives both in the now and in the future—working out details and circumstances for our ultimate victory! Joel 2:25-26 (NKJV) even says, "I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten..., my great army which I sent among you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you; and My people shall never be put to shame." How does Joel 2:25-26 give us confidence to resist the enemy's attempt to lead us to live in fear and regret for past mistakes?
3. When Joshua began to lead Israel after Moses, the Lord said to Joshua in Joshua 1:6-7 (NIV84), "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you

may be careful to do everything written in it." How does being careful to obey the Word of God—with all of its promises, and all of its accounts of God's faithfulness—help us to overcome fear? What does Joshua 1:6-7 instruct us about the connection between courage and obedience to God's Word?

4. In Joshua 1:8-9 (NIV), the Lord again called Joshua to be "*strong and courageous,*" saying: "*Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*" Discuss the connection between facing your fear and God's Word. How is experiencing God's promise of peace connected to obedience to God's Word?
5. The more we have the mindset of doing what God wants us to do—no matter what the cost—the more God comes alongside to help us! Psalm 23:4-5 (NIV) says, "*Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*" When God gives you a challenge, ask the Lord for a clear Word for what he wants you to do. What assurance does Psalm 23-4-5 give you that God will help you both to overcome fear and to take the next steps into the fullness of life that God has for you?
6. Fear is always trying to neutralize you and keep you from moving forward. But every time you come back to what the Bible says about God, about you, and about God's perfect love and faithfulness—you're renewing your mind to move into the good future God intends for you! Psalm 91:1-2 (NIV84) says, "*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."*" How can you embody God's command to "*be strong and courageous*" this week in your daily life?

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*

Small Group Action Steps

1. Consider taking the Group Health Assessment to see how your small group is balancing the five purposes: <https://saddleback.com/connect/smallgroups#spiritualCheckup>
2. Did you know that Saddleback produces many new small group studies each year? Visit <https://saddleback.com/studies> to see Saddleback's ever-growing library of curriculum.

Are you interested in the Bible and in helping small groups benefit from the weekend message? Well, you are in luck! Saddleback members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email Maturity@saddleback.com