

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of August 16-22, 2021

## “FACING OUR FEARS”

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### GETTING STARTED

*To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.*

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What was something that you were so afraid of when you were little which you later realized was petty? Did you manage to face it or are you still afraid of that until today?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read 1 Samuel 17:1-16. Goliath mocked Israel for 40 days but the turning point was when David shows up and reminds them about God. In what ways can fear be paralyzing? Are there people in your life today who are burdened and engulfed in so much fear which you can encourage and remind about the character of God?
2. David talked about the giant twice but he talked about God ten times. The COVID pandemic has brought in a lot of discussion that fosters fear and usually leaves out God. As a Jesus follower, how do you intend to take the challenge of speaking more of God than the situation?
3. Read 1 Samuel 17:28-33, 41-44. Who opposed David and what reasons did they give to say that he couldn't possibly win? Have you experienced an opposition when you wanted to do something you know God wanted you to do? How did you respond to that situation?
4. Read 1 Samuel 17:34-37. How did God use David's past victories to prepare him to face the giant? Are you currently facing difficulty right now? What personal “lion-and-bear” stories can recall which can encourage you to face your giants?
5. Saul was king during this time and everyone looked to him to fight the giant and defend the nation from the Philistines but he had abdicated this role (see 1 Samuel 9:15-16). Is there God-given purpose in your life that you are not fulfilling at the moment? What hinders you from doing what God has called you to do?

6. In the sermon, we are reminded that “The Battle is the Lord's.” What are the battles that you are fighting or have fought on your own in the past and made God as your last resort for help and deliverance? How did it turn out? What did you learn from that experience?

7. What are the three things to remember in order to face our fears? How can you make a conscious effort to remember these? What character of God stands out the most in your life and how does being reminded of this bring encouragement to the challenges you are facing?

### 8. [NEXT STEPS]

*The battle belongs to the Lord!*

- I will consciously and intentionally speak out truths of who God is more than my fears.
- I will give thanks to God for my lion-and-bear experiences.
- I will submit my fears to the Lord and remember that the battle belongs to him.
- I will walk in the power of the Holy Spirit so that others may see who God is in my life.

*Don't forget to:*

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God's intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

### CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Ask for the empowering of the Holy Spirit and for opportunities to minister to those who are struggling with fears today.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.

### BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

August 16. 1 Samuel 9  
August 17. 1 Samuel 10  
August 18. 1 Samuel 11  
August 19. 1 Samuel 13  
August 20. 1 Samuel 15  
August 21. 1 Samuel 16  
August 22. 1 Samuel 17