

Becoming

Becoming Fearless (March 22nd, 2020)

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.
- Review the learning objective to focus the conversation, read the primary scriptures as a group, summarize the main points, ask the questions, and use supporting texts to enhance the concepts.

DISCUSSION

Opening Prayer: (1-5 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of how your group can invite God into your time together.

Thank Jesus for coming to this world and showing us the ways in which we were called to live a fearless life! Pray that the Holy Spirit would uncover the root of all our worries and fears. As we shelter in place, pray that Jesus would remain close to us so that we would remember his kingdom and be reminded of our hope for eternal life! Finally, pray that the kingdom of Jesus would transform this world plagued by the Coronavirus and would renew our hearts with God's love for the lost!

Discussion: (30 minutes)

What's Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Danny led us into the sixth week of our series titled *Becoming*. During the online sermon, Pastor Danny encouraged us to surrender our worrisome and diligent reactions in this pandemic to Jesus in order to lean into him as we strive to live fearlessly in this moment. We were specifically directed to Jesus' words in Matthew 6:25-34 in order to identify our worldly lens of worry so that Jesus would replace it with faith. Furthermore, Pastor Danny challenges us to not only ask Jesus to change our lens, but to point the telescope toward the kingdom of God as opposed to the situations of this world. Then, we can truly find safety and rest for our lives as we lie in the hands of the One who can actually do something in this season!

“If you want to live a fearless life, set your vision on the kingdom of God and take it one day at a time.” – Pastor Danny Strange

Suggested Questions

Check-In: *John 16:33* – Last week, our discussion challenged us to lean into the peace of Jesus as he calls us to take heart in difficult times based on the fact that he has overcome the world. What were some of your observations as you leaned into becoming more *peaceful* this week?

Study Tip: Our primary text this week comes in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount. During this pandemic, there is a good chance that you can relate with one of Jesus' description of a *blessed* disciple (Matt. 5:3-11). Take heart, because "great is your reward in heaven" (Matt.5:12)! Why? Not because of anything you have done, but because Jesus fulfilled the law, rose again, and gave us a hope of a new eternal kingdom (Matt. 5:17-20). In fact, this new kingdom is the primary message of Jesus (Matt. 4:17) and can be applied to Jesus' sermon. After Jesus exposes the inescapably corrupt human heart (Matt. 5:21-6:24), he admonishes his disciples to grow more and more dependent on God. Therefore, they are commanded to look beyond themselves to rely on the provision of God, seek His kingdom blessings for us, and rest in His righteousness! Throughout this study guide, keep in mind Jesus' application suggestions in chapter 7. Pray and ask for what you need, listen for and obey God's command even if they may seem difficult, guard yourself from false teachings, and build your foundation on God's word!

- **Objective #1: Identify our worries in this season and how worry manifests in our life.**

Primary Texts: Matthew 6:25 – During the shelter in place order, Pastor Danny points out that there are most likely a variety of concerns about your future that have brought about feelings of anxiety and worry. Where have you found worry creeping into your life this week? What changes occur in your overall lifestyle that begin to tell you that you have entered into a season of worry?

Supporting Texts: (Origin of Fear) Gen. 3:8-10; (Anxious Thoughts) Pr. 12:25; Eph. 6:10-18

- **Objective #2: Change our lens of worry to the lens of faith by looking to God's righteousness!**

Primary Texts: Matthew 6:26-30; 1 Peter 1:3-9 – After speaking about the lens of worry and how it manifests in your life, Pastor Danny uses this portion of scripture to expose worry and anxiety with 4 different truths. He points out that 1) there is more to life than mere survival, 2) God will take care of your basic needs, 3) worrying is worthless, and 4) God's provision for you is extended lavishly! Which of these 4 truths can help you see the world through the *faith* lens instead of the *worry* lens? Share with the group any other truths about God that you would like to lean into by *faith* during this season of life!

Supporting Texts: (Do not fear) Josh. 1:1-9; Is. 43:1-7; Phil. 4:4-9; 1 Jn. 4:7-19; 1 Pet. 5:6-11; (Faith and Hope) Jn. 16:23-24; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; Heb. 11:1, 12:1-2 (Jesus Examples) Lk. 4:1-13; Matt. 26:36-46; Jn. 5:19; Phil. 2:5-8

- **Objective #3: Turn your telescope towards the Kingdom of God now / this week.**

Primary Texts: Matthew 6:31-34; Psalm 23:1-6 – Finally, Pastor Danny uses the final section of Matthew 6 to point out that not only do we need to change our lens, but our entire telescope might be pointed toward the wrong kingdom. Which aspect of the kingdom of God do you think could potentially decrease your level of worry? How can you focus on God's kingdom throughout the week and how can we as a group support you?

Supporting Texts: (Kingdom) Ex. 19:5-6; 2 Sam. 7:1-17; Matt. 4:17; Jn. 14:1-7; Rev. 7:9-17; 21:1-22:7

Closing Prayer: (5-15 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.

Thank Jesus for being the way, the truth, and the life in our world today! Ask that the Holy Spirit would reveal to us the depth of what it means to live fearlessly with His kingdom in mind! Finally, pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to transform our minds so that we would continue to recognize our own faulty beliefs and worldviews that hinder our progress toward becoming more like Jesus!

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

-Stay up to date with our Coronavirus webpage: Help us out by pointing the people in your Community Group to 3Crosses.org/coronavirus

-Follow Along with our Pray Podcast: For the next 30 days, our challenge for you is to step into the prayer movement around 3Crosses by listening to our [Pray Podcast](#).

-Further Reading and Exploration! *Read Matthew 13 / Revelation 21-22:* If you are experiencing anxiety about the future, one great concept to remember is that the end is already written. Let's keep our telescope pointed toward the kingdom of God by reading and meditating on these scriptures that talk exclusively about the kingdom of God!

- Find out how to pray for two people in your group this week! Pray that the members of your group would be fearless as they share the message of God's kingdom to those who are hurting!