



This week's message was about fear and how we often let our fear paralyze us, keeping us from impacting the world with the power only God can provide..

- **What was the scariest thing you ever encountered?**
  - ◆ Why were you so afraid?
  - ◆ How did you react?
  - ◆ What was the outcome?
  
- **On Sunday, Eric told us that the Lord tells his people, "Do not fear" approximately 189 times in the Bible . . . He referenced one example in Genesis 3, where Moses encountered the burning bush. (Read Acts 18:5-11) In this passage, Paul experienced a similar experience.**
  - ◆ What were the circumstances Paul was encountering?
  - ◆ How did the Lord speak to him, and what did He say?
  - ◆ How did Paul respond?
  
- **Have you ever experienced a "Burning Bush" experience, calling you to overcome a fear to be more effective in accomplishing what God wants to do through you? What were the circumstances and how did God speak to you?**
  
  
- **Which of these fears tend to paralyze you and keep you from influencing people? Why?**
  - ◆ Fear of speaking in public/in front of groups
  - ◆ Fear of talking to strangers/people you don't know
  - ◆ Fear of rejection
  - ◆ Fear of being alone
  - ◆ Fear of not knowing what to say/answers to questions
  - ◆ Fear of failure
  - ◆ Fear of \_\_\_\_\_
  
- **The following are a sampling of the promises God gives us related to fear and accomplishing His work: (Read: Romans 8:31-40; 2 Peter 1:3-4; 2 Timothy 1:6-7)**
  
- **If you could flawlessly live out the promise to be free from all fear . . . If fear was not a factor at all . . . What would you do for God?**
  
- **How can your Growth Group help you overcome the fears that are holding you back?**

Hey folks! We're getting close to the end of another school year! I am excited to see what God is going to do at Journey Church this summer, getting us ready for next year. If you have been reading my blog ([apk4jc.wordpress.com](http://apk4jc.wordpress.com)), you know that I have been itching to find creative ways to create a Journey BUZZ in the community. I encourage you to begin thinking in the same way, and begin instilling this vision into your group members, so they can take ownership of some ideas.

Since this week's topic is about overcoming fear and accomplishing something great for God, it is a great opportunity to challenge your group to overcome hesitations, and get out there and do something great!

Primarily, I believe the best way for us to create a buzz among disconnected people is going to partner with community events to make them just a little bit better. One of the churches in Georgia that Eric and I have been tracking made a habit of doing one big thing at every community event, and have their sign on it. For example, they set up a stage and scheduled a series of local bands of several musical styles to come and play throughout the day during a local car show. The idea is that disconnected people will go to community-sponsored events before they will go to church-sponsored events . . . so it is a way to go where the disconnected people are and make an event they enjoy just a little bit better, demonstrating that we care about them and the things they are interested in.

Auburn Cityfest is this coming weekend. We won't be able to have an actual display, but if your growth group has an idea of how we can get involved at the last minute, feel free to pursue it. Several other community events are coming up this summer. I strongly encourage your growth group to get out and make a BUZZ!

Have a wonderful week!  
Andrew



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- **What was the scariest thing you ever encountered?**
  - ◆ **Why were you so afraid?**
  - ◆ **How did you react?**
  - ◆ **What was the outcome?**

[This could be fun, this could be serious. This is an opportunity for your group members to be a little bit transparent about what makes them tick. Even if you spend a lot of time talking about silly stuff here, listen carefully and you may learn a lot to use down the road . . .](#)

- **On Sunday, Eric told us that the Lord tells his people, "Do not fear" approximately 189 times in the Bible . . . He referenced one example in Genesis 3, where Moses encountered the burning bush. (Read Acts 18:5-11) In this passage, Paul experienced a similar experience.**

- ◆ **What were the circumstances Paul was encountering?**
- ◆ **How did the Lord speak to him, and what did He say?**
- ◆ **How did Paul respond?**

This is part of a pattern I am trying to develop throughout this series . . . By using a story of a similar experience to the one Eric used in his message, I want to reinforce the idea that fear and uncertainty are nothing new and even some of the greatest leaders in the Bible occasionally needed some godly reassurance to continue on . . .

By giving your folks a biblical example to identify with in their fears, they will be able to more fully comprehend that the Bible has answers to their everyday problems and is very much relevant today. It also helps to disarm them for the more personal questions to come . . .

- **Have you ever experienced a “Burning Bush” experience, calling you to overcome a fear to be more effective in accomplishing what God wants to do through you? What were the circumstances and how did God speak to you?**

You know your group members better than I do . . . you may or may not get some cool story here. No matter what anyone says, be ready to assure your group that sometimes God speaks through something really cool like a burning bush or a vision . . . sometimes He speaks even more clearly through the Holy Spirit in our inner beings . . . at any rate, God has great plans for each of us and is trying to speak to us somehow in order to accomplish great things through us.

Also, be careful not to let anyone feel like a “second rate Christ-follower” if they don’t have a cool experience to talk about. Find ways to encourage everyone in your group to listen for God speaking into their lives . . . you may even want to talk about the Prophet Samuel learning to hear God’s voice in 1 Samuel chapter 3. As great of a prophet as Samuel turned out to be, he had to start somewhere.

- **Which of these fears tend to paralyze you and keep you from influencing people? Why?**
  - ◆ **Fear of speaking in public/in front of groups**
  - ◆ **Fear of talking to strangers/people you don’t know**
  - ◆ **Fear of rejection**
  - ◆ **Fear of being alone**
  - ◆ **Fear of not knowing what to say/answers to questions**
  - ◆ **Fear of failure**
  - ◆ **Fear of \_\_\_\_\_**

Our goal is to set our people free to accomplish great things for God. If you need to camp out here the rest of the night and pray through each person’s fear, feel free to do it. But, at the same time, don’t try to fix everyone’s life-long fear in one sitting. You may just need to use wise words of encouragement to help them see beyond their fear . . . you may need to insert the following promises within the discussion of fears in order to help apply them in a meaningful way . . . Do what works for you and your group.

- **The following are a sampling of the promises God gives us related to fear and accomplishing His work:** (Read: Romans 8:31-40; 2 Peter 1:3-4; 2 Timothy 1:6-7)

Depending on what has happened up to this point in your group, you may want to read one or two of these promises together, or you may want to encourage them to take them and read them at home. You may want to paraphrase the basic promise and move on . . . feel free to work with the biblical promises as you deem appropriate for your group.

- **If you could flawlessly live out the promise to be free from all fear . . . If fear was not a factor at all . . . What would you do for God?**

Help your folks dream big! Build them up pretty high, and then hit them with the next question . . . it will be really fun to see their reactions. I look forward to hearing from each group leader what their groups came up with. Be sure to give me a report!

- **How can your Growth Group help you overcome the fears that are holding you back?**

I’m dead serious with this question. If there is ANYTHING that your group or Journey Church as a whole can do to help your people make a giant impact for God, let’s pray through it and go for it!