

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## Fear

*June 10 & 11, 2023*

“Do not be afraid” is the most frequent command in the bible. It appears 365 times, once for every day of the year. But how can mere words address our fears? Telling me not to be afraid in the midst of my fear only drives me into shame. But God is about more than empty words. God’s promise is that God meets us in our fears, granting us grace to breathe through it.

### SCRIPTURE TEXT: JOSHUA 1:2-9

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

Moses had led the Israelites out of their slavery in Egypt and for 40 years he shepherded them through the wilderness and to the Promised Land. But just as the Israelites came to the threshold of the Promised Land, Moses died and God called a young man named Joshua to become the leader of the Israelites. Now, imagine that you’re Joshua. You’re now responsible for the lives of thousands of people. You’re about to cross into an unknown land that is filled with people who will see you as a threat. How are you feeling? Yeah, Joshua was feeling that way too! In Joshua 1:2-9, we hear the words God spoke into Joshua’s fear.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

***Scripture never tells us that there is nothing to fear in this world. Far from it.***

- What are some fears that you have struggled with in the past? What fears are you currently facing?

***Into the darkness of our fears God doesn’t just say, “Do not be afraid.” God also says, “I will be with you.”***

- Read Psalm 139:7-12. Has the promise contained in these verses ever brought you comfort in a time of fear? Share about that.

***While those words are comforting, they do raise the question, “How is God with us?”***

- When have you experienced the presence of God through the Holy Spirit? What words does the Spirit of God whisper to you when you breathe it in to calm your fears?
- When have you experienced the presence of God through the body of Christ, the church? Share about a specific time that your sisters and brothers in Christ were God-in-flesh for you. How did that experience ease your fears?

**CHALLENGE:** Whatever fear you’re wrestling with, know that you’re not alone. Let every breath you take remind you that God is with you. Deepen your engagement with your church community. Allow your sisters and brothers in Christ to be God-in-flesh for you.