

Faith Over Fear: 2 of 2
“Our Wonderful Counselor”
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
December 24, 2020

Big Idea: We can choose to live in fear or stand in faith.

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were **terrified**. But the angel said to them, “**Do not be afraid**. I bring you **good news** of **great joy** that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a **Savior** has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom **His favor rests**.” **Luke 2:8-14 (NIV)**

We Can Choose Faith Over Fear Because:

1. Jesus Understands Our Struggles

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called **Wonderful Counselor**, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” **Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)**

“Because God’s children are **human** beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could **He break the power of the devil**, who had the power of death.”

Hebrews 2:14 (NLT2)

“Therefore, it was **necessary** for Him to be made in every respect **like us**, His brothers and sisters, so that He could be our **merciful** and faithful High Priest before God. Then He could offer a **sacrifice** that would take away the sins of the people. Since He Himself has gone through suffering and testing, He is **able** to help us when we are being tested.” **Hebrews 2:17-18 (NLT2)**

Notes: _____

2. Jesus Cares For Our Needs

“That is why I tell you **not to worry** about **everyday life**—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far **more valuable** to him than they are? Can all your worries **add** a single moment to your life?”

Matthew 6:25-27 (NLT2)

“**Rejoice** in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your **gentleness** be evident to all. **The Lord is near**. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by **prayer and petition**, with **thanksgiving**, present your requests to God. And the **peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, will **guard** your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” **Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

3. Jesus Is Always Available

“God is our **refuge** and **strength**, an **ever-present** help in trouble. Therefore we will **not fear**, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Selah” **Psalms 46:1-3 (NIV)**

“This High Priest of ours **understands** our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same **testings** we do, yet He did not sin. So let us come **boldly** to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His **mercy**, and we will find **grace** to help us when we **need it most**.” **Hebrews 4:15-16 (NLT2)**

“For if you **confess with your mouth** that Jesus is Lord and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” **Romans 10:9 (NLT)**

Notes: _____

- Am I embracing God as my Counselor who fully understands, who cares for my needs, and who is always available?

My next right step, I will:

- [] Read this week’s “Talk It Over” and journal down my personal application
- [] Trust that Jesus understands my struggles
- [] Accept God’s gift of salvation

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Family Corner: [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it to 12 minutes or less.]

Open in Prayer:

➤ What thoughts from this week’s message encourages me to live a life for Jesus?

Icebreaker: Share a favorite family Christmas tradition.

Read the Christmas Story in Luke 2:1-20 and discuss it.

Read The History of The Candy Cane by Laura Witcher Goldstein

<http://www.noelnoelnoel.com/trad/candycane.html>

Make a family memory - Peppermint Bark

Prep time: 30 mins

Cook time: 2 mins

Total time: 32 mins

Serves: 15

Ingredients:

- 24 oz of white chocolate chips
- 24 oz semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 2 boxes of candy canes

Instructions:

1. In a microwave-safe bowl, melt semi-sweet chocolate chips in the microwave for 60 seconds, stir and repeat for an additional 60 seconds.
2. Place parchment paper on top of a cookie sheet and spread melted chocolate over top.
3. Place in refrigerator until set and hardened (approx. 20 mins).
4. Melt white chocolate chips the same way.
5. Unwrap candy canes and place in a large Ziploc bag and crush with a mallet.
6. Place 1 cup of crushed candy canes into the melted white chocolate.
7. Pour white chocolate on top of hardened dark chocolate and sprinkle with the leftover crushed candy cane.
8. Place in refrigerator for 2 hours until well set and hardened.
9. Take out and break into pieces. Enjoy!

Small Groups: [Choose as many questions that honors your group's time commitment]

Big Idea: We can choose to live in fear or stand in faith.

We Can Choose Faith Over Fear Because:

1. Jesus Understands Our Struggles

Hebrews 2:14-18

Why was it necessary for Jesus to become human?

What struggle do I feel is hard for God to understand?

List the struggles Jesus went through.

To help you get started, here are a few passages:

- Temptation - Matthew 4
- Hypocrisy - John 8
- Anxiety for the future - Luke 22:39-44
- Betrayed – Matthew 26:14-16
- Political Unrest - Matthew 21:46 John 18:28–19:16
- Far from God – Matthew 27:46
- Ridiculed - Luke 22:63-65
- Socially Rejected - Luke 23:18-23
- Physical Pain - Luke 23:32-33

2. Jesus Cares For Our Needs

Matthew 6:25-27

Which of my everyday life issues do I worry about the most?

Has God provided what I need?

Do I believe that I am valuable to God?

Read Philippians 4:4-7

Write out a prayer giving my worries over to God.

3. Jesus Is Always Available

Psalms 46:1-3

How does this verse help me understand God better?

Hebrews 4:15-16

What is God's invitation for us? What does this mean to me personally?

Romans 10:9

What must we do in order to begin a relationship with God?

Am I fully embracing God as my Counselor who fully understands, who cares for my needs, and who is always available?

Close in Prayer: Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.