

EVANGE PHOBIA

FACE YOUR FEARS AND FUEL YOUR PASSION

Facing Your Fears Group Discussion Guide

Key Verses: *I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power...*
(1 Corinthians 2:3-4 NIV).

Big Idea: We all have fears when it comes to sharing the gospel with others. It's OK to be afraid. Pray and ask the Spirit of God to help you face down your fears.

Part 1 Discussion Questions (Choose two or three)

- Have you ever tried to conquer some activity that you were afraid of—like rappelling, rock climbing, or riding a zip line? Did it get easier after you'd done it a few times?
- Do you think that same principle could be true when it comes to sharing your faith? Is it toughest the first time you try to do it?
- What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word "evangelism"?
- Why do you think many Christians suffer from "evangeophobia" and are afraid to talk about Jesus with their friends who don't know him?



Part 2 Discussion Questions (Choose three or four)

- What's your biggest fear when it comes to sharing your faith?
- Have you ever tried to share your faith with someone? If so, what happened?
- The apostle Paul said: *I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power... (1 Corinthians 2:3-4 NIV)*. What does this passage say about Paul, the "super apostle?" What does it say that will help us face down our fears?
- Greg read this quote from Dorothy Bernard: "Courage is fear that has said its prayers." Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- Is it easy or hard for you to pray for your friends who need Jesus? Why or why not?
- Do you think introducing your friends to Jesus would be worth the "awkward moments" you might experience as you initiate conversations about God? Why or why not?

Application Challenge: Challenge your students to pray specifically this week that God would give them the courage they need to face down their evangelism fears and start praying for their friends who need Jesus.

Give the Gospel: Near the end of the meeting, give a clear invitation to trust Christ by saying something like:

As you've listened to the discussion today, I hope you realize that it's natural to have some fears about sharing your faith. Still, Jesus makes it clear that he's given us the privilege and responsibility to share his message with others. Through prayer and the power of God's Spirit, Jesus will help us overcome our fears and be bold for him and his message of grace and hope.

But perhaps you've realized today that you've never personally embraced Jesus' message of salvation yourself. If that's the case, I want to invite you to do that right now, because a deep and personal relationship with God is freely available to you through Jesus.

You see, we were created to be with God, who longs to have a relationship with every person ever made. But our sins—all the bad things we've done to hurt ourselves and others—have separated us from God. We've messed up. There's evidence of that inside us and in the pain and suffering we see in the world all around us, as well. The Bible tells

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us that nothing we can do ourselves can ever be good enough to earn our way back into relationship with a holy and perfect God.

Yet because of his great love for us, God put a plan in place to restore our broken relationship. God sent his Son, Jesus, to live a perfect, sinless life and die a sacrificial death in order to pay the penalty for our sin. Jesus offers to pay our sin debt for us! Everyone who trusts in him alone to forgive their sins receives eternal life and the free gift of a restored relationship with God—a relationship that starts now and lasts forever.

If you're willing to trust in Jesus, I encourage you to do that right now in the quietness of your own soul. Invite him into your life and embrace this free gift of life that he offers to you.



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