

Study Guide



Matthew 10:26-33 – Reasons for Courage February 18, 2018

Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

Word (45 Minutes)

As we look at Jesus' five discourses in Matthew, we see Matthew and the other disciples "at the feet of Jesus." These teachings are in the context of Jesus' calling and equipping the twelve apostles to go and make disciples of all nations. In our nine months of studying Jesus' five discourses of Matthew we will be sitting at the feet of Jesus learning the ins-and-outs of being disciple-makers ourselves. Our prayer is that we will be challenged to understand that we were saved in order to be disciple-makers and that we will be inspired to sit at the feet of Jesus to be equipped for our calling to be disciple-makers.

For further study on this weeks study please check out the following pages...

Action Step

Last week we asked you to identify and pray for someone you can share the gospel with. This week we want you to go and share the gospel with them. As you go pray that you will not fear but you will boldly proclaim the gospel.

Calendar

March 4th- April 15th— Connection Group
March 4th- April 15th— Kids Shine
March 16th- 18th— DNOW
March 30th- April 1st— NOLA Easter Trip
April 1st— Easter
June 11th-16th— Youth Camp

Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Christ?

Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[God With Us](#)":

You are matchless in grace and mercy
There is nowhere we can hide from Your love
You are steadfast, never failing, You are faithful
All creation is in awe of who You are

You're the healer of the sick and the broken
You are comfort for every heart in loss
Our King and our Savior forever
For eternity we will sing of all You've done
For eternity we will sing of all You've done
We sing

God with us, God for us
Nothing can come against
No one can stand between us
God with us, God for us
Nothing can come against
No one can stand between us

Your heart, it moves with compassion
There is life, there is healing in Your love
You're the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit
For eternity we will sing of all You've done
We sing

God with us, God for us
Nothing can come against
No one can stand between us
God with us, God for us
Nothing can come against
No one can stand between us

Where there was death, You brought life, Lord
Where there was fear, You brought courage
When I was afraid, You were with me
And You lifted me up, and You lifted me up
Where there was death, You brought life, Lord
Where there was fear, You brought courage
When I was afraid, You were with me
And You lifted me up, and You lifted me up
Where there was death, You brought life, Lord
Where there was fear, You brought courage
When I was afraid, You were with me
And You lifted me up, and You lifted me up
Where there was death, You brought life, Lord
Where there was fear, You brought courage
When I was afraid, You were with me

And You lifted me up, and You lifted me up
And You lifted me up, and You lifted me up
And You lifted me up, and You lifted me up
We sing

God with us, God for us
Nothing can come against
No one can stand between us
God with us, God for us
Nothing can come against
No one can stand between us

Commentary: Read Matthew 10:26-33

As we are betrayed, hated, and persecuted, Jesus says that fear will tempt us. This is where Jesus' words in verses 26-33 are so comforting. **Three times in these eight verses Jesus says not to be afraid (vs. 26, 28, 31).** Fear is a real temptation, particularly when it comes to sharing the gospel. No matter where we are, if we are in an area of the world where it's illegal to share the gospel, or even if we are here in the United States where there is freedom to share and speak of Jesus, like in our own workplaces, fear is probably one of the biggest obstacles to obeying Christ's command to share the gospel. Therefore, we need to know what Jesus says about overcoming fear.

In verses 26-27, Jesus says, "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops." Verse 26 explains to us that we shouldn't have fear of this world and its ways, because one day in the future, sin, and evil will be exposed and God's justice will prevail. So instead of worrying about what the world says now, we should worry about what God will say in eternity. In light of this we need to speak with holy boldness. One commentator says of verse 27, that Jesus is talking about the gospel and its out-workings in the disciples. He says, "If the truth will emerge at the End, how wise to declare it fully and boldly now." The gospel kingdom truths are revealed by God to His disciples and they are to boldly and loudly proclaim these secrets. Whatever God whispers to us through His Word is to be proclaimed from the rooftops. We are reminded of the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus says to not light our lamps and then put them under a basket, rather, we are to let them shine (5:15-16). Speak the truth with boldness! Have no fear of man and speak the truth of God everywhere, speak it often, and speak it clearly.

In verse 28, Jesus says, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell." Jesus knows that we will be tempted to fear man and to be intimidated by what people can do to us. However, it is not man that we need to fear. Jesus is making a distinction between the body and the soul. The soul is that part of us that faces the judgement of God and will be condemned to hell or saved based on our position with Christ. It is God who holds our eternity in His hands. Jesus is basically saying, "Don't be afraid of men, the worst they can do is kill you." It may seem like a strange way to encourage his disciples, but He is saying that is all they can do! We have already died with Christ (Colossians 3:3), so our focus must be on eternal things, so that nothing man can do matters. God through the gospel of Jesus Christ has given eternal life to our souls and has given us an imperishable, undefiled and unfading inheritance that our souls will enjoy eternally. When you and I fear God alone, then we can boldly stand in front of man and share the gospel.

These instructions from Jesus are not easy, but thankfully Jesus shares in verses 29-31 that we are not alone and that he will take care of us. God is in control of even the smallest sparrow falling to the ground. Therefore, He is more than able to direct our every step amid the danger in our mission to share the gospel. He not only is in control but he knows us completely. God is your all-knowing, all-loving father who knows every detail of your life and is lovingly watching you every second of every day and not one hair of your head escapes his attention and not one hair of your head will fall to the ground apart from His will. God is watching and caring for you so you can share the gospel freely and boldly and fearlessly knowing that whatever you are faced with is a part of God's good and perfect plan for your life. If you are in Christ, you are safe (Proverbs 29:25), so be bold and courageous, sharing the gospel with those around you without fear.

Discussion - Read Matthew 10:26-33

1. What were some takeaways from the sermon? What convicted you? What stood out to you? Explain.
2. Look at verses 26-27. "Have no fear of them." Who are those that we are tempted to fear and for what reason? In verse 26b and 27 what are we told to do instead of fearing persecution? Look at Mark 4:21-22 and Mark 4:33-34 for some insight into the things that were hidden and were whispered that will need to be proclaimed from the housetops in the future.
3. What reasons are we given to not fear men (who oppose Jesus' teachings) in verses 28-31?
4. In verse 32 in practical terms what does it mean to acknowledge Jesus before men? What are some examples from your own life or others that you have seen?
5. In verse 33 in practical terms what does it mean to deny Jesus before men? Is a failure to acknowledge Jesus before men the same thing as a denial of him before men?
6. Do you think the warning in verse 33 may refer to a one time occurrence of denial of Jesus before men or an intentional ongoing pattern of denial of Jesus before men? Think about the example of Peter in Luke 22:31-34 and Acts 4:5-12.
7. Looking at verse 28, do you fear God as much as you fear men? Have you deeply considered the prospect of the destruction of the soul?
8. Have you been in a situation when fear has crippled or overcome you when sharing the gospel? How what truths from this passage encourage you to fear God more than you fear man?

9. On the other hand, have you deeply considered that God is your Father and He has not only the desire, but the power, to take care of you (verses 29-31)?
10. Looking at both truths, which course of action is most wise?
11. Last week we asked you to identify and pray for someone to share the gospel with. This week we want you to go and share the gospel with them. As you go pray that you will not fear but you will boldly proclaim the gospel. Below are some helpful resources on having gospel conversations.
- a. [Sharing your faith \(Article\)](https://billygraham.org/story/sharing-your-faith-101/): (<https://billygraham.org/story/sharing-your-faith-101/>)
 - b. [Life Conversation Guide \(Video\)](https://www.namb.net/video/3-circles-life-conversation-guide): (<https://www.namb.net/video/3-circles-life-conversation-guide>)

Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in Matthew to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

Here is a list of local ministries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Hub/purchased	Celebrate recovery
Young life	Samaritan counseling
Heart of hope	Last call ministries
First priority	Golden age ministries
Ark-la-Tex crisis pregnancy center	Rescue mission
Community renewal	Luke's lighthouse
Grief counseling	FCA

Here is a list of missionaries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Shannon & Carrie Lewis (South Sudan)
Matt & Angie Johnson (Panama)
Meggie Hickson (Tanzania)
Kyle & Suzy Jagers (New Orleans)

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you are in your groups this week! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!

Walk

Prayer & Missions

For further information visit
norrisferrychurch.org or contact Jared
Clary (clary@norrisferrychurch.org)

Calendar

February 22nd- March 3rd — South Sudan
March 29th- April 1st— NOLA
June— Serve Shreveport
July— Community Outreach