

GO DEEPER

The Go Deeper section has two potential functions. It can supplement your small group discussion by providing extra discussion material. We've highlighted a place where each of the following segments could fit in the Discuss section of the study guide.

But you can also use these sections as short devotionals to carry you through the week until your next group meeting.

JOSHUA

Read Joshua 1:1-9.

Fear is a natural response to a threatening or unstable situation. In the beginning of Joshua, we find Joshua at the beginning of his time as the leader over Israel. He had to follow in the footsteps of Moses, and although he had watched God provide and protect for many years, the job was a little intimidating.

- In these verses, how many times does God tell Joshua to have strength and courage?

God is a God who loves and cares for His people. He tells Joshua not only to be strong and have courage but also why Joshua should trust Him.

- What reason does God give Joshua to trust Him in verse 5?
- What reason does God give Joshua to trust Him in verse 6?
- What instruction does God give Joshua in verse 7?
- Why does God instruct Joshua to do this?
- What careful instruction in verse 8 assures further success?

In verse 9, God once again tells Joshua to have strength and courage. What encouragement does He give Joshua?

Read Isaiah 41:10. In this powerful verse, God gives reasons why we never need to fear. Our God is a God who is with us. He is our God. He will strengthen us. He will help us. He will uphold us with His righteous right hand. Verse after verse in the Bible gives the same type of encouragement from God that any fear we have is squashed by who He is.

- What need do we have to fear if our God has been so faithful?
- Why do we have trouble trusting that God will take care of us even though He has proven Himself worthy over and over?