



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 6

May 28th & 29th, 2011

Small Group Warm-Up

What has been your best experience with public speaking? What about your worst?

Opening Prayer

Father God, thank you for loving us just as we are, but for not leaving us that way. Help us to honor you in all that we do.

Discussion Questions

This weekend Pastor Luke told us the greatest threat to our spiritual journey is our innate desire for a stress-free, problem-free, risk-free Christianity.

List ways that the desire for comfort can negatively impact our spiritual growth – such as, I don't know enough about the Bible to talk with people, if I tithed I can't make my bills, I don't want people to think I'm weird, etc.

- Look back through the list, is fear a common factor?

Read 1 John 4:18-19

Describe a time when God's love cast out fear in your life?

Read Philippians 4:8-9

What do you do to relieve stress from worry in your life? What does this scripture say to do with worry?

- Looking at verse 8, what are some things you can think about that fit these characteristics?
- At EastLake Church we often hear, "Information + application = transformation". Looking at verse 9, share an example of one area you have experienced transformation by applying the information you read in the Bible.

Read Psalm 27:1

"The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?"

- Take a moment to reflect on your greatest fears. What is God's perspective on these fears?

Read Psalms 111:10 and Proverbs 1:7

- What impact do these verses have on your fear and mindset?
- How do these verses evoke courage in you?

Read 2 Timothy 1:7

Describe what your life would look like if you truly put aside your "spirit of timidity" and acted in a spirit of "power, love and self-discipline".

As Pastor Luke pointed out this past weekend -- Courage is not the absence of fear, it is knowing something is more important on the other side of that fear.

Closing Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for giving us Your strength and courage to step out of our comfort and into boldly living for You. Help us to be aware of what our next right step is and take it.

For personal reflection:

- Write down an area where God is calling you out of your comfort zone.