

The Other Greatest Commandment

The most repeated command in the Bible is "Do not be afraid." But is it really possible in a world filled with evil and heartache? Peter had so much fear that he denied even knowing Jesus, but years later, he issued the same commandment to believers in 1 Peter 3:14. His rationale was the resurrection. If the grave had no power over Jesus, then fear has no power over those who believe.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What were you most afraid of as a child? Do you currently have any phobias?
- 2. Read **Matthew 10:16-31**. How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus was describing what they would experience? Why do you think Jesus chose to focus on the reality of persecution rather than offering a more comforting message? In light of the difficulty of following Jesus, what do you find encouraging about verses 26-31.
- 3. How do you typically respond when you feel afraid or anxious? Are there specific fears that you struggle with the most?
- 4. Are there areas in your life where you feel called to step out in faith but are held back by fear? What might it look like to trust Jesus in these situations?
- 5. What does it mean to you that Jesus will never leave you or abandon you (Hebrews 13:5b-6)? How can this promise give you courage in your daily life?
- 6. How does, or how should, the reality of the resurrection give us courage and confidence to follow Jesus regardless of how difficult or challenging it may be? What's one practical step you can take this week to live out Jesus' command to "Fear not"?