

Fearlessly Following In Faith

Learning to Trust and
Celebrate God

What Are We Afraid Of?

- Things of Nature – spiders, snakes, mice, squirrels, dark
- Things Unpredicted – Accidents, Job Loss, Flying
- Things of Man – Covid-19, Terrorism, Robbery, Assault, Public speaking, social interaction
- Things of Us – Failure, Acceptance, Death
- Things of Faith – Lack of Money, People, God (and not in a good way)

What Does God Say?

- 2 Tim.1:7 – “For God gave us a spirit – NOT OF FEAR – but of POWER and LOVE and SELF-CONTROL” ESV
- “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of POWER, of LOVE and of SELF-DISCIPLINE” NIV
- I have equipped you, I given you my Spirit - Eph.1:13-14
- I have Empowered you! – Eph.1:18-20
- I Love you! – John 15:13-14
- I have enabled self discipline – Rom.8:1-4

God Is At Work In And Around Us

- We are Equipped to be Loving, Empowered and Self-disciplined **BY** Christ LIVING His life through us!
- John 5:17,19,20
- Our Mission is to Think, Act and Love like Jesus
- That is accomplished through Jesus having greater freedom to lead us in following the Father
- God is always at work. Do we see it?
- God is shaping us to Love people as Jesus Loved people Eph.3:14-21

God is Always At Work To Shape You To Be Like Jesus

- **Matt.14:1-33; Mark 6:30-52**
- **Jesus and the Disciples needed a rest – Mk.6:30-32**
 - They had just returned from Ministry trip 7, 13
 - They had learned of the death of cousin John- Mat.14:13
- **God is always at work in us and it comes in the shape of the ordinary events of life- stores, rallies**
- **God wants us to be God focused. In our weakness, Christ's strength is perfected in us.**

God is Always At Work To Shape Us To Love Like Jesus

- **33-34 – Jesus SAW the crowd and had compassion**
- **The disciples saw the crowd and saw work.**
- **The main work of God is to teach us to look beyond our resources and our strength to God's -36,37**
- **God will lead us to challenges that are beyond our abilities so that we are forced to trust God for His resources – 37; that includes loving people**
- **Crisis of belief**

God Is At Work In And Around Us

- **God expects us to bring what resources we have to the table – 38 - Some people are unlovable - John 6:15**
- **God is the multiplier of our respect - 39-44**
- **Eph.3:20,21; Heb.11:6**
- **What God is doing, cannot fail!**
- **Too often we pray, then fail to relate the activities around us to the work of God!**
- **God's demonstration of power is to grow our faith for the next challenge – Matt.14:22**

God is Always At Work To Shape You To Be Like Jesus

- **Sermon on the mount Mat.5:21,27,31,33,38,43**
- **God calls us to love all people, all colors, all the time!**
- ***“Take heart, it is I. Do not be AFRAID” 2Tim.1:7***
- ***“For they had not understood the loaves”***
- **Matt.14:28**
- **When you are faced with a huge spiritual challenge, do you believe God loves you and is using this for your good and His glory?**