



## Grace to Embrace

WEEK TWO

# FEARLESS

*"Don't be afraid. Just believe."*

Mark 5:36 (NIV)

- **Believe is the Greek word "Pisteuo," which is a derivative of the root "pistis." "Pistis" is what we translate into English as faith, belief and trust.**
- **To believe, or to have faith, is to trust in Jesus.**

**My faith in Jesus is the most important thing I have.**

*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

- **Trust is the foundation of any relationship, especially my relationship with God.**
- **My trust in God is tested when I don't get what I want.**
- **A trust that cannot be tested cannot be trusted.**
- **When my trust in God endures through the testing, my trust (or faith) grows.**

**Faith is trusting in who Jesus is and hoping in what Jesus can do even when I don't get what I want or what I think I deserve.**

*Faith is not the power to get whatever we want; it's the power to accept whatever we've been given.*

(Gary Thomas, "Sacred Parenting")

**It is in difficult and hard times when our trust in God is tested and strengthened.**

*<sup>1</sup> "All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. <sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. <sup>3</sup> They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. <sup>4</sup> I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, <sup>5</sup> but now I am going to him who sent me.*

John 16:1-5 (NIV)

*<sup>27</sup> No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. <sup>28</sup> I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father." <sup>29</sup> Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. <sup>30</sup> Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God."*

*<sup>31</sup> "Do you now believe?" Jesus replied. <sup>32</sup> "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. <sup>33</sup> "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

John 16:27-33 (NIV)

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

**I don't have to fear suffering when I trust that in Jesus I will have peace.**

- **We have courage because we can trust in who Jesus is and what Jesus has done.**
- **Jesus is God, and He has overcome the world.**

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<sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

1 Peter 5:7-9 (NIV)

<sup>5</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Romans 5:1-5 (NIV)

**My trust in God's love that is given to me through Jesus grants me peace with God and the grace to embrace my sufferings.**



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#### TEACHING SUMMARY:

*"When you trust in Jesus you can have peace in the midst of suffering."* - Kasey Robinson

It is often difficult to think that even in the midst of the difficulties of this world there is peace.

We can see examples of it and we can even believe that it will come but in the heat of the moment, it can seem that we are experiencing anything but peace.

When times get difficult it is an opportunity to deepen and strengthen our trust in God and depend upon Him for the peace that Paul experienced in prison, Daniel experienced in the lion's den, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego experienced in the fiery furnace.

But it is our choice to lean upon Him and trust that He will carry us through and provide a peace that goes beyond all human logic and understanding. Not an erasing of the situation but peace in the midst. Trust, believe, have faith in Jesus and He will be your peace.

#### TALK IT OVER:

When was a time when your life seemed to be falling apart around you and you experienced suffering? Who did you lean into during that time? How did that work out?

Do you believe that Jesus can be peace for you in the middle of incredibly difficult times?

Have you ever experienced that? If so what was that like?

What is one next step you can take today?

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Day 1: Psalm 19:6-8; Psalm 111:1-10

Day 2: Psalm 119:137-138

Day 3: Psalm 145:9-14

Day 4: John 8:25-29

Day 5: John 10:22-38

Day 6: John 14: 6-11; 25-27