

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## From Fear to Courage

*March 9 & 10, 2019*

Fear is the dominant emotion in culture today. It shrinks our view of possibilities, crushes creativity, isolates, quenches hope and feeds despair. But scripture is filled with the admonition “Do not be afraid” and it is almost always followed by the assurance of God’s presence and promise to come to our rescue. These assurances are the main ingredients of hope, and hope is the foundation of courage. Courage, like bravery, isn’t always the absence of fear; it is the strength to act despite our feelings.

### SCRIPTURE TEXT : JOSHUA 1:1-9

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

In every age and context, leadership transitions are tenuous times. They create uncertainty and anxiety and are often times of revolt and civil war. That’s enough to make any new leader anxious. But Joshua had far more to be anxious about: he is following Moses, the epic leader who defeated Pharaoh, the Israelites are about to enter a new land, and the impending encounter with those who already live in the Promised Land. It’s no wonder, then, that this opening passage of Joshua focuses on God’s assurance to Joshua as a leader. It also explains why God twice tells Joshua to be strong and courageous! No doubt Joshua was feeling weak and terrified. And on what basis could Joshua afford to be strong and courageous? God’s promises.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Where does unhealthy fear show up in your life? What does it keep you from doing or experiencing?
- When and how have you overcome unhealthy fear?
- How can or does faith address unhealthy fear in you? How do you keep the truth in front of you?
- What additional fears would you add to the list above that you think are common among our disciples...and what do those fears drive us to do or avoid?

**APPLICATION:** This week, identify someone you can encourage. How are they gifted and what can you do to cheer them on? **BONUS:** Identify someone that encouraged your gifts and reach out to thank them.