

Week of February 24th, 2008

# DIGGING DEEPER

## Fearless—Part 4



### Guidelines for

#### Inductive Bible Study

- **OBSERVE**— never make the text say what it doesn't say or what you simply want it to say. Read the text and ask the faithful 'who, what, where, when and why' questions of the scripture as you record your answers, questions, and thoughts.
- **INTERPRET**— be sure to interpret scripture with scripture. Try and understand the context surrounding a verse or a passage. See if you can understand the mindset of the original hearers, speakers, or writers. Their understanding of the text is much more important than yours at this stage.
- **APPLY**—once you have seen what is in the text, and understand what it likely means, then you are ready to apply what you have learned. Ask—"What does it mean to me?" "What should I think, do, say, or feel as a result of this Biblical teaching?" For application to be most effective, make it:
  - PERSONAL—(I)
  - POSSIBLE—(CAN),
  - PRACTICAL—(DO IT!)
  - PROVABLE—(BY WHEN!?)

### **BREAKING THE ICE:**

- On a scale of 1 (play it safe) to 10 (risk it all) how much of a daredevil were you as a kid?
- What is the riskiest thing you have ever done?

### **Discovery Questions —**

#### **1. Read about other mighty heroes of faith in Hebrews 11:1-3, 6-12, 32-39.**

- What is faith according to Hebrews 11:1 and 6? Why is faith so important to God? What does God tell us about the creation of the world? (v 3) How are we to understand or accept what we cannot see? What role does faith play in our relationship with God? (v 6)
- List each hero, the risk he/she took, and the victory experienced. What did they believe about God? Put yourself in their shoes. What fears would you need to overcome in order to trust in God as they did?
- How does this passage disprove the idea that faith always leads to earthly blessing? (vv 35-38) What truth about God do you need to believe in order to trust Him and take risks even if you don't receive an earthly reward or blessing?

Why does the author of Hebrews say that "the world was not worthy of" the heroes of faith mentioned in Hebrews 11:38?

#### **2. Read about Benaiah in 2 Samuel 23:20-23.**

- Besides killing a lion, what other heroic deeds did Benaiah accomplish? God had called Benaiah to be a soldier and to serve King David. What do you think made Benaiah a great soldier and leader?
- What has God called you to do, in service to your King Jesus? What is the scariest or most difficult aspect in what God has called you to do? What lion(s) do you need to chase and conquer in order to become all God has created you to be?

#### **VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY:**

John 14:27; 2 Timothy 1:7; Hebrews 11; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 5:7; Romans 8:15, 37; Psalm 3:3-6; 56:1-4, 91; Deuteronomy 31:6; Isaiah 12; Daniel 6, 10:19

## Connection Questions

1. **What is the lion you most need to chase and conquer?** How did you develop this fear? What attribute or truth about God do you need to focus, in order to conquer your lion? **To chase your lion, you'll have to take a "first step."** What is the first step you need to take to conquer your fear?
  
2. **Our God is the Indescribable One. Though none of us have words to explain His goodness, try. Who is God to you? "My God is . . ."** If this is who we truly believe God is, then why are we so afraid of the lions in our life?
  
3. **When is taking a risk foolish and when is it honoring to God?** Where in your life are you playing it safe? What are you trying to protect? If we are to experience God for who He truly is, we must take risks. What risk are you willing to take in order to trust Christ as your only source of power and life? (see Philippians 3: 8-10) What doubts do you need to overcome?
  
4. **In the near future, over what battle would you like God to cause you to be victorious?** Do you feel like you are fighting any battles all by yourself? In what way can we, as a Small Group, provide reinforcements?
  
5. **If your funeral was this week, how would others describe your relationship and service to your King?** For what do you want to be remembered? What kind of spiritual legacy do you want to leave your children or grandchildren? In what areas of your life would your family say you were "fearless"?

### ***WHAT LION DO YOU NEED TO CHASE?***

- *Normal people rarely face their fears!*
- *Normal people don't chase lions!*
- *Normal people die with regrets!*
- ***DON'T BE NORMAL!!!!***

### ***EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE CHASE LIONS!***

#### PRAYER NOTES

- + Pray for a bigger vision of God so that we might **MAGNIFY** Him and **MINIMIZE** our fears and troubles.
- + Pray for a God-breathed vision, a God-shaped plan, and for God-given courage to take the **FIRST STEPS!**
- + Pray for Victory in the Battle, Integrity on & off the Field, and Unity/Healing amongst the Troops.
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