

New Beginning—Beyond the Fear
Study Questions
Psalm 46:1-3; 1 John 4:15-19

Warm-up

1) Describe a time that you were fearful of something (or someone), only to find that your fear was completely unnecessary.

If you can't think of a time like that, do you have any fears that you know are irrational, but you still can't shake them?

A little deeper

2) [Psalm 46:1-3] These verses mention some fierce natural disasters, and then go on to say that God is our refuge, strength, and help even in the face of the worst we can think of. **What are some modern troubles and disasters that lead people to fear or anxiety?** (Don't just think of natural disasters—the disaster could be relational, political, professional, etc.)

How have you seen God act as a refuge, a source of strength, or a help for people facing similar troubles?

3) [1 John 4:15-17] Jesus is the key for us to live in God's strength, but what does that mean? **What's the first step to having God work in our lives?**

How do we continue to learn to love without fear?

4) [1 John 4:18-19] If someone is motivated to act out of fear, then there will always be a bigger fear that may hold them back—the consequence of acting is greater than the consequence of doing nothing. But if someone is motivated purely by love, what consequence isn't worth the price? Adversity may even sweeten the accomplishment in the end. **How did God demonstrate this kind of reckless love for us? How did some of the apostles love like Jesus did? Have you seen people acting out of deep love in your own experience?**

Bringing it home

5) When you're being completely honest, what fears have some sort of hold on you?

What have those fears held you back from?

What does this say about your current motivations?

6) How can you draw on God's strength to give your fears less power over you?

7) How can we as a church inspire each other to act out of love?