



# Series Overview and Guides

2021-2022 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 1

SEPTEMBER

## Objective

*what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study*

That we remain undaunted, ever on mission.

### STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"Above all, be strong and very courageous to observe carefully the whole instruction my servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you will have success wherever you go. This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do. Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

—Joshua 1:7-9

"I don't care how much power, brilliance or energy you have, if you don't harness it and focus it on a specific target and hold it there, you're never going to accomplish as much as your ability warrants."

—Zig Ziglar  
*See You at the Top*



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*a redeemed community*

## Premise

*why we are studying this*

It's not easy to follow Jesus in a fallen world. Distractions abound. Fears and hatreds loom large. Defeats dominate our thinking. In a word, churches and individual Christians appear intimidated. The church needs to remember and act on the truth that Jesus has commissioned us. Undaunted, we can and must press on with His mission for our lives.

### STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"But even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. Do not fear them or be intimidated."

—1 Peter 3:14

"Though all three men faced the same hardship, their differing perceptions of it appeared to be shaping their fates. Louie and Phil's hope displaced their fear and inspired them to work toward their survival, and each success renewed their physical and emotional vigor. Mac's resignation seemed to paralyze him and the less he participated in their efforts to survive, the more he slipped. Though he did the least, as the days passed, it was he who faded the most. Louie and Phil's optimism, and Mac's hopelessness, were becoming self-fulfilling."

—Laura Hillenbrand  
*Unbroken*

## Theme

*what the study is about*

We must fix our eyes on Jesus rather than losing sight of the mission among our many hindrances and snares. We can effectively do so via the simple reminders of 2 Timothy 1:7:

- Don't fear. Use your superpower!
- Don't hate. Keep loving!
- Don't settle. Press on!

### THEME VERSE

**2 Timothy 1:7** - For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. (NASB)

### STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

—Hebrews 12:1-2

"Successful people maintain a positive focus in life no matter what is going on around them. They stay focused...on the next action steps they need to take to get them closer to the fulfillment of their goals rather than all the other distractions that life presents to them."

—Jack Canfield  
*Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## SCRIPTURE QUOTATIONS

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On the **Sermons** page, filter by Series and select **Undaunted**.

## PERMISSION

You are welcome to copy and distribute this study guide for your personal or group study.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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SERIES 1 | SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

UNDAUNTED

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Timothy 1; Acts 4

KEY IDEAS

THEME

God the Spirit indwells believers in Jesus, granting literal super power. Yet we live much of our lives in a spirit of timidity. Paul speaks to all of us in his letter to Timothy, calling on his protégé to leave fear and replace it with power. In Acts 4, John and Peter give an excellent outline of how to do so practically.

OBJECTIVE

We replace our fear with power.

POWER OF CHARACTER

“Through every variety of adversity and struggle, through every step forward to the ideals of a new start, he [Rufus Putnam] had maintained his strong sense of purpose...The impress of his character is strongly marked on the population...in their buildings, institutions, and manners.”

—David McCullough  
*The Pioneers*

BE NOT ASHAMED

“Take away the dispensation of the Spirit, and his effectual operations in all the intercourse that is between God and man; be ashamed to avow or profess the work attributed unto him in the gospel, -- and Christianity is plucked up by the roots.”

—John Owen, *Pneumatologia*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we are not ashamed of the gospel.

# Session 1: Don't Fear. Use Your Superpower!

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word *undaunted*? Why?
  - a. Review the Theme, Premise, and Objective for this series together (see page 1 of this study guide).
  - b. Which statement or idea stands out to you the most? Discuss with the group.
2. Read 2 Timothy 1:6-9.
  - a. What are some ways that the world and the culture around us promote “a spirit of fear” (verse 7)?
  - b. Since this spirit of fear does not come from God, as Christians, what can we do to minimize the influence of fear in our lives?
  - c. Which word characterizes your Christian witness: fear, or power? Why?
3. Read Acts 4:1-21.
  - a. Why did the religious leaders decide to intimidate Peter and John?
  - b. Despite the distractions, what was the main thing which Peter kept in focus?
  - c. How did the apostles’ response to the intended fear show powerful thoughtfulness and honesty?
  - d. What was the source of Peter’s and John’s boldness? Do you have that same source?
4. How did this experience of Peter and John demonstrate promises of Jesus? Read and discuss Acts 1:8; Luke 21:12-15; and Mark 13:11.
5. Coming back to Paul and Timothy, read 2 Timothy 1:12-14. List the ways in which Paul shows a God-given spirit of power just in these verses.
6. What are some ways to develop your superpower to help keep your church on mission?



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SERIES 1 | SESSION 2

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

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SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 13; 1 John 4

KEY IDEAS

THEME

God has an incredible, foolproof plan for overcoming our fears, and love is a major part of that plan. Unfortunately, love almost never conquers fear in humans. Things work exactly opposite to that, in fact. Wonderfully, God provides love Himself. His love becomes the abiding foundation which allows Christians to practice agape love, casting out every fear.

OBJECTIVE

We love.

LOVE IS NOT ARROGANT

“Love... rejects that most pernicious form of rejoicing over evil, gossiping about the misdeeds of others; it is not gladdened when someone else falls. Love stands on the side of the gospel and looks for mercy and justice for all, including those with whom one disagrees.”

—Gordon D. Fee

*The First Epistle to the Corinthians*

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

“The love which the New Testament enjoins involves a consuming passion for the well-being of others, and this love has its wellspring in God.”

—F.F. Bruce, *The Epistles of John*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that God would change us to love others like He loves us.

## Session 2: Don't Hate. Keep Loving!

1. Review 2 Timothy 1:7, and read the Theme in the sidebar for this session.
  - a. Can you think of examples from literature or movies where power and love combine to conquer fear?
  - b. Have you ever seen this in real life? If so, tell what happened.
2. 1 Corinthians 13 is Paul's treatise on *agape*, one of four Greek words translated into English as *love*. What differentiates *agape* from other Greek sources of the English word *love*?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a together.
  - a. Why are all of the good things in verses 1-3 nothing without agape love?
  - b. Have you ever exercised your spiritual gifts and then felt the Spirit's conviction that you were doing so without love? What did you do?
  - c. How does the description of agape in verses 4-8a differ from the world's definition of love?
  - d. Which of these attributes is hardest for you to live out? Why?
  - e. Pray through this list and ask God to show you someone in your life who needs one of these agape attributes from you, and then love them in that way.
4. Read 1 John 4:15-21. (Just as in 2 Timothy 1:7 and 1 Corinthians 13, every instance here of *love* in English is from *agape* in Greek.)
  - a. How does one abide, or remain, in God?
  - b. Why does agape drive out fear?
  - c. What enables us to show such powerful love?
  - d. What is one self-test of whether or not we love God? Prayerfully test yourself this week.



SERIES 1 | SESSION 3

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

UNDAUNTED

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 6:12-13 and other selections

KEY IDEAS

THEME

God calls us to press on to the upward call of the glory we are promised in Jesus.

This requires that we:

- live outside the circle of evil influence even as we live in the world
- don't look longingly at evil left behind
- press ever onward to maturity
- focus on Jesus' glory
- work hard via the empowerment of grace
- hold tight to Scripture
- hold forth good words and works

OBJECTIVE

We press on.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

"We are not godly just because we practice the spiritual disciplines. That was the great error of the Pharisees. They felt by doing these things they were godly. No, they are means to godliness. Rightly motivated, they are the means to godliness."

—Don Whitney  
 "What are Spiritual Disciplines?"  
[desiringgod.org](http://desiringgod.org)

PRAYER

This week, pray 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 for the others in your group.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

## Session 3: Don't Settle. Press On!

1. Read 2 Timothy 1:7 from the NASB: "For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline." We've already discussed that God has given us a spirit of power, and of *agape* love. Now we turn to a spirit of discipline.
  - a. What comes to mind when you hear the word *discipline*? Discuss its various meanings.
  - b. What sense does it have in 2 Timothy 1:7?
2. Discipline involves not looking back.
  - a. What are the dangers of holding on to past sins and desires? How do we let go? Discuss Ephesians 5:8-9.
  - b. What is the risk of holding back and not growing in your faith? Discuss Hebrews 5:11-6:2.
3. Discipline involves focusing on and working toward Jesus' glory.
  - a. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14. How does it help to know the ultimate end of our calling?
  - b. Read Philippians 3:12-15. What reason for our effort is given in verse 12?
  - c. What are some practical ways you have found to "press on"?
4. Discipline involves holding tightly to the right things. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:15-17.
  - a. Discuss verse 15. What are "the traditions," and why is holding to them necessary?
  - b. From Paul's prayer in verses 16-17, what four things are or can be given us by God?
  - c. Summarize Paul's prayer in your own words. What does it look like when we are strong in good works and words?
5. Review 2 Timothy 1:7 together.
  - a. What have you learned about yourself through this series?
  - b. How can we encourage one another to live by God-given power, love, and discipline?



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