

## **Fear not.**

(Acts 18:1–17)

*Fear not: God is with you.*

*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10 ESV*

### **1. Fear not: when you find yourself in difficult circumstances, God is with you. (Acts 18:1)**

- a. The “pattern of this world” is a dangerous one (Romans 12:2). Just because others say I can do something does not mean that I should.
- b. Common temptations do not have to lead to compromise (1 Corinthians 10:13).

### **2. Fear not: when you feel isolated, God is with you. (Acts 18:2)**

- a. God invites us to join Him (Psalm 68:5-6). He has designed us to thrive in community.
- b. Instead of waiting to be pursued by others, at times we need to pursue others.

### **3. Fear not: when your resources are running out, God is with you. (Acts 18:3-5)**

- a. God is not ignorant of your true needs.
- b. God often likes to address our needs in unexpected ways and in His timing.

### **4. Fear not: when life is full of discouragement, God is with you. (Acts 18:6-8)**

- a. When there is little fruit to show from our labor, it is easy to want to give up and be discouraged.
- b. God wants to teach us how to keep moving forward even when we are exhausted (Matthew 11:28-30).

### **5. Fear not: when you are under attack, God is with you. (Acts 18:9-17)**

- a. The Lord is in control even when things feel out of control.
- b. The Lord is our refuge (Proverbs 18:10, Psalm 23). He lifts us with His “righteous right hand.”

### **Questions for discussion and application:**

1. What does it mean to be a slave of fear? Have you ever been paralyzed by fear in such a way that it hindered your ability to trust God?
2. In John 8:44 Satan is described as the “father of lies.” Lies are his native language. What lies do you think Satan wants you to believe about yourself? About fear? About the provision of God?
3. What is the source of your biggest fears? What do you believe that God would say to you about the things you fear the most?