

# 2017 Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center

## Bible Studies

### Fearless Faith: Trust in God

#### Introduction

We all have things that we are afraid of. Often this fear causes us to put our trust in something. If we are afraid of the dark we trust our flashlights to illuminate our surroundings. Or if we are with other people, we trust the leader or someone in the group to protect us from whatever is out there in the dark. If we are afraid we won't have friends when we move we might trust in our clothes, fashion, athletic ability, or story telling ability to win us some people that want to include us. When we sit down we put our trust in the chair to hold us up!

We put our trust in a lot of different things for many different circumstances. This week we will be looking at what it means to put our trust in God. We will look at the things we worry about and we will learn why we can trust God. We'll consider following God outside of our comfort zone and the different things that we are afraid of. Then we will end with some time thinking about what it means to trust God in our daily life.

Our lessons will come from across the Bible while we look at different characters and situations where people in the Bible trusted God. Let's take a leap of faith and begin our journey of trust!

#### Helpful tips for group discussion:

1. Ask specific questions, especially for younger campers. Abstract thought does not develop until later.
2. Call on specific people if no one offers a thought. Don't forget to include and invite the more quiet campers to speak/answer.
3. You can consider using a "talking piece," an object that signifies that only the person who holds it can talk. For some questions you can pass it around the circle so all have a chance to answer the question.
4. Don't criticize an honest answer, and don't let other campers criticize each other. Be encouraging and create a safe space for campers to speak openly and honestly.
5. Lead by example, at all times. A cabin counselor that doesn't listen to instructions during the rest of the day can't expect their campers to follow their directions either. A cabin counselor that says good/encouraging things to other staff will have campers that try to do the same.

Check-in is at the Lakeview Lodge at 6pm

Closing Campfire is at the Eagle Wing Activity Center at 6pm



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## Monday: Worry and Trust

Main idea: God knows what we truly need, so we shouldn't worry. Instead we should focus on seeking (living into) the Kingdom of God.

### Opening Prayer

Activity: Make a list in your journal of all the things that you really need in life, (the essentials) and a list of the things that are nice, but you don't REALLY need, and then a list of the things in life that are just for fun.

### Questions and Conversation for Debriefing:

What were some things that you wrote down as life essentials? (Don't judge their lists, just affirm and listen at this point.) How about as nice but not as really important? Fun things?

Which of these lists do you spend the most time worrying or thinking about?

What were some of the things you were/are worried about when you came to camp?

How do you feel about them now? (Probably still a bit worried about some things.)

What are some things that other people worry about?

### Setting the Stage

Worry often has to do with not knowing about the future or not being in control. We don't know how things will turn out. Will it all end well? Will it be too hard? What if I get hurt? What if something goes wrong? Let's look at what the Bible tells us!

### Looking at the Text

Mt 6:19-21, 25-34 New International Version (NIV)

6: <sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ...

<sup>25</sup> "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life<sup>[c]</sup>?

<sup>28</sup> "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the people who don't know God run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his

righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

### Understanding the Text

Let's take this apart a bit to make it easier to understand.

Whatever we accumulate on earth will eventually rot away, but if we grow our faith, it will always be with us, so we should focus more on building our faith, and not as much on money.

Jesus says not to worry about food or clothing because life is about more than food and clothes. Worrying does not help us live longer, (or grow taller!). God makes the flowers beautiful and makes sure the birds are fed. And we are much more valuable than birds and flowers!

Instead of worrying about food or clothes we should seek God's Kingdom and God will provide for our needs. Instead of worrying about tomorrow, we should just focus on today.

(You can also look at 1 Kings 9:26-10:29 for a description of Solomon's Splendor and wealth. And Jesus says that the flowers are dressed better than Solomon!)

### Reflecting on the Text

What do you think about what Jesus says here?

What questions do you have? What stuck out to you? What doesn't make sense?

### Searching Deeper

On the surface this passage is about worry. But it is really about deciding what is important in life. Most of us don't worry about having food or clothes, but we might be worried about eating our favorite food, wearing clothes that are in style, or having a cell phone. Is life all about money, fancy clothes, and good food? Jesus says that life is more than food or clothes, but what does he mean?

Sometimes we can spend a lot of time worrying about making sure we are wearing the right clothes, playing the right games, using the right apps or snapchat filters, or that our favorite food is always available. But are fashionable clothes and sweet treats really "needs," or are they "wants"? God knows what the birds and flowers need to survive. God also knows what we need. Whenever we worry about different "wants" in our lives it takes energy away from other things like helping others, being thankful for what we have, or being an encouragement to the people around us.

Worry can lead us to being more focused on ourselves than on the people around us. We worry about the things we have, or about what might happen to us in the future. It is good to plan for the future, but spending time dwelling on the future, "what if's," or wondering what others think about us can distract us from following God.

### Specific Questions to Think About

What are things that you worry about, that you probably shouldn't?

What does it mean to "seek the Kingdom of God?"

### Personal Example or Story

(Insert a short story about something that you worried about, where it ended up that you didn't need to worry, and it might have actually distracted you from something better.)

### Living it out

How can we practice “Seeking the Kingdom” today while we are at camp? (What are 2 things that we will do as a group?)

### Final summary and task for the day

It is important to eat and wear clothes, but life is about more than these “necessities.” Jesus says that instead of spending energy on these things we should put our energy into the Kingdom of God. God knows our needs and will provide for them.

Today, do something kind for another person or your cabin. (Offer to trot for a meal, open a door for someone, let someone go in front of you in line, give someone a compliment, or encourage someone during a game or activity.)

Terms:

“Kingdom of God”: God’s “shalom” or the place where there is no injustice, all needs (emotional, physical, mental, spiritual, relational) are met, and the community cares for each other (through the power of God).

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### Tuesday: God can be Trusted

Main Idea: Through Jesus’ life and teaching we know that God can be trusted. If we claim to follow Jesus we should become people that others can trust to better model how God can be trusted.

### Opening Prayer

Activity: Go around the group and have everyone say one person in their life that they can trust and why they can trust them. (counselors can answer first to prime them) (Note, there may be some campers that have no one they can trust, so don’t push them if they don’t want to answer.)

### Questions and Conversation for Debriefing.

Thanks for sharing! I can see that we kind of have a sense for different people that we can trust in our lives. Was it hard for you to think of someone? Why / why not?

What were some common themes we heard for why we trust the people that we do?

### Setting the Stage

Sometimes we can think of God as a person too. God is really much bigger and more complicated than us humans, but it can be helpful sometimes to think of God as having some characteristics like us. One of those characteristics is that God can be trusted. God is generous, forgiving, and wants what is best for us.

### Looking at the Text

Today we will look at a couple of different stories that talk about who God is.

The first is the story of the vineyard owner (someone who owned a field of grapes). It can be found in Mt 20:1-

“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard (a place where they grow grapes). He found some people and agreed to pay them \$100 for the day to work for him.

A bit later in the morning the landowner saw some more people standing around waiting to be hired by someone, so he said to them, ‘You can also go work in my vineyard and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went.

Then the landowner went out around noon and found more people, and again at 5 in the afternoon.

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to the manager, ‘Call everyone in and pay them, starting with the last people who started and going to the first.’

So the workers who were hired at 5 came and each received \$100. So when those that were hired first came to receive their payment, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received \$100. When they got their pay they started to grumble to the landowner saying, ‘Those that were hired last only worked for an hour and you have made them equal to us who have been working in the hot sun all day!’

But the landowner said to them, ‘I am not being unfair. Didn’t you agree to work for \$100? Take your pay and go. I want to pay those that came last the same as you. If it is my money, can’t I do whatever I want with it? Or are you jealous because I am generous?’”

\*the text says “denarius” which is about a day’s wage. \$100 a day could be a relatable amount for campers to envision, but is technically not accurate for today’s wage system.

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The next story is about the forgiving father. From Luke 15:11-32

“A father had two sons. One day the younger one went to his father and said, ‘Give me all the money I would get from my inheritance if you would die.’ So the father gave his son the money. The son then packed up his bags and left.

He went off to a faraway place and began to spend the money on whatever he could to have fun. Soon he was out of money and broke. He found a job feeding pigs, but he didn’t make much money. One day he was so hungry that he thought to himself, ‘that pig food sure looks good!’

Then he thought some more and said to himself, ‘What am I doing? Even my father’s servant s are treated better than this! I will go back home and apologize profusely to my father and admit that I am not worthy to be called his son and maybe my father will let me work as a servant.’ So the son started to travel home.

When he was still far away, his father saw him coming. The father immediately dropped what he was doing, and started running towards his son. The neighbors thought the father looked ridiculous running like that, but the father still ran to his lost son.

The son didn’t know what the father was going to do, and he immediately started to apologize for asking for the money and going away, but the father wrapped his youngest son in a big bear hug and said, ‘I am so glad to see you! Come inside and get cleaned up. Tonight we will throw a party in your honor!’”

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And the last little story is from Matthew 7:9-11

Jesus said:

“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? <sup>11</sup> If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”

### Reflecting on the Text

What did you think of those stories? Which one did you like best? Why?

Was there any that you didn't like?

What do they say about God?

### Searching Deeper

In these three stories from Jesus we see who God is. In the first story Jesus tells us that God is like a generous employer. The employer paid everyone the same just because they came to work, even though they didn't work the same amount of time. In the second, God is like a father that welcomes his son back, even when the son wished his father was dead and wasted his father's money. God is forgiving. The third short lesson reminds us that the people that take care of us want to give us what we need, and God wants to give us good things even more strongly.

What kind of people are easiest for us to trust? Usually they are good people, they care for others, they want what is best for us, and are willing to forgive us when we make mistakes. Jesus tells us that that is what God is like! So we can learn to trust God too! Usually we also trust people that we know. We may hear from others that someone is nice, but until we get to know them for ourselves it can be hard to trust them. What this means is that we need to get to know God before we can really trust him. We get to know people by spending time with them, so we get to know God by spending time with God through prayer, worship, reading the Bible, and talking to other people that know God well.

### Specific Questions to Think About

How well do you trust God?

What makes it hard to trust God?

### Living it out

If we claim that we are Christians we can help others trust God when we live so that people can trust us. What were the things we talked about that help us to trust people? How can we live so people can trust us better?

Personal Example or Story (Share a story of when you trusted someone in your life and why you trusted them. Or share about why you trust God, or how you try to live so people can trust you.)

Final summary and task for the day

Part of being trusting is being honest and having integrity. Sometimes it is easy to say little lies, or stretch the truth a bit. Today, try to be as honest as you can when you talk to other people. Don't make your stories grander than they really should be. Admit to the mistakes that you make instead of trying to cover it up. Part of trust is also being kind to others. Remember to keep up the kindness and encouragement from yesterday!

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## Wednesday: Following God when it's uncomfortable.

Main idea: Sometimes God will call us into places that are uncomfortable. God will be with us in those spaces. When we accept the call into uncomfortable places we can experience growth, life, and a deeper understanding of who God is.

### Opening Prayer

Activity: Find an obstacle nearby, maybe a tree or sharp turn on the patio. Have one person volunteer to close their eyes and let the rest of the group talk them around the obstacle. Have a couple of other people do it as well.

### Questions and Conversation for Debriefing

What was it like being the one giving directions? What was it like being the one who couldn't see and didn't know what was going on? Did you try to rely on things other than the voices to help you navigate? Does it ever feel like this in life sometimes? What's an example?

### Setting the Stage

In our activity some of you experienced what it is like to not know what is going on or be in control of the situation. For some of you it may have been easier or harder than others. In our story today we will look at a story where the disciples were in a big storm and didn't have much control over the situation, but Jesus asked one of them to step out of their comfort zone.

### Looking at the Text

Matthew 14:22-33 New International Version (NIV)

14: <sup>22</sup> Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>23</sup> After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup> and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

<sup>25</sup> Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

<sup>27</sup> But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

<sup>28</sup> "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

<sup>29</sup> "Come," Jesus said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

<sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

<sup>32</sup> And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. <sup>33</sup> Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

### Reflecting on the Text

What stood out to you in this passage? What images do you most resonate with? How is it similar to our beginning activity? What was unexpected when you heard this story?

### Searching Deeper

This is a great story about trust and brings together some of what we’ve talked about this week. We see the disciples in a storm. They are tired and not in control of the situation. Then Jesus comes to them, and they are afraid of the “ghost,” even though earlier in the story Jesus gave them authority over demons and spirits (chapter 8). Peter decides to take a risk and steps out of the boat. He successfully walks on water until he saw the clouds and wind. As soon as he started to sink he called out to Jesus, and “immediately” Jesus reached out and saved him.

This is how it can be in our lives as well. We can be surrounded by some type of storm in our lives and Jesus steps in and asks us to step out of the thing that we have to keep us safe.

Sometimes, when we are uncertain we can rely more on ourselves than on God. We might try to impress people with our looks or ability, or believe more in the power of money instead of prayer. Going into uncertain territory means giving up control and trusting that God will be with us and take care of us, even if it means we might start to drown. For example, you might need to change schools and decide that you are going to impress everyone at the new school with your fancy new shoes. But following God into uncertain places would mean that you should ask God to help you make new friends, and connect with people over shared interests and kindness instead of possessions and looks.

### Specific Questions to Think About

How else does this story relate to our lives? Are there any storms in your life now or coming up soon? When was there a time when you felt like you had to step out in faith and trust in God?

### Living it out

Sometimes it can be hard to try new things. What are some things that you have been hesitant to do because you are unsure? How can you practice stepping outside of your comfort zone (in safe ways)?

### Personal Example or Story

(Share a story of a time when you either relied on things other than God and got into trouble, or relied on God instead of other things and made it through the storm.)

### Final summary and task for the day

Today, stay aware for some time when you think God might call you out of your comfort zone to follow Jesus. Maybe it will be volunteering to be a trotter, or going last in line so that someone else can be ahead of you. Or maybe you will see someone all alone at free time and go ask them if they want to throw the Frisbee with you. Make it a goal today to do something “uncomfortable” to help someone else.

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## Thursday: Being Fearless

Main idea: Fearless faith is faith that is not ashamed and is confident that God is at work. Being fearless helps us to live out our faith and tell others about it.

### Opening Prayer

### Activity

Write on a piece of paper your worst fear. (You won't be asked to share it, no one has to know what you wrote.) We will use this paper at the end of the lesson.

### Questions and Conversation for Debriefing

What makes you afraid? What do you typically do when you are afraid? Do you know anyone who is never afraid? Why do you think they are like that?

### Setting the Stage

In today's passage we will first be reminded that God is with us. Then we will hear about how Peter and John lived out and shared their faith fearlessly.

### Looking at the Text

Isaiah 41:10 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> So do not fear, for I am with you;  
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you;  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Acts 4:1-22 New International Version (NIV)

**4** The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people.<sup>2</sup> They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. <sup>3</sup> They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. <sup>4</sup> But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

<sup>5</sup> The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. <sup>7</sup> They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! <sup>9</sup> If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup> then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of

Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup> Jesus is

“the stone you builders rejected,  
which has become the cornerstone.”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

<sup>13</sup> When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. <sup>14</sup> But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. <sup>15</sup> So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. <sup>16</sup> “What are we going to do with these men?” they asked. “Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. <sup>17</sup> But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”

<sup>18</sup> Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! <sup>20</sup> As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

<sup>21</sup> After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. <sup>22</sup> For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

### Reflecting on the Text

How were Peter and John fearless in their faith?

What surprises you about these passages? What doesn’t make sense?

### Searching Deeper

In today’s story we see Peter and John standing before some important people, and being fearless in their belief in Jesus. Just before this passage Peter and John had been walking through the temple grounds and had healed a man in the name of Jesus who could not walk. This upset some of the religious leaders. The high priests of the temple had a lot of power and influence and could punish anyone that they thought was creating a problem. They believed that it was bad for Peter and John to be teaching about Jesus so they wanted to stop them. We see that part of fearless faith means that we are not afraid to live out our faith or tell others about our faith. Peter and John had seen Jesus do similar miracles and had maybe even done similar miracles in the past themselves. Here they saw a person in need in a very public place and decided to act on their faith and compassion. Because they healed this man they were thrown in jail. But even then they would not go against their faith and stop talking about Jesus.

But there is another kind of fearless faith. In Isaiah we are reminded that God is with us, and God will support us. When trouble happens in our lives we can live confident that God will not leave us. God will support us in times of distress. Because of this, we can live with joy regardless of our circumstances.

### Specific Questions to Think About

What do you typically do when you are afraid?

What type of fearless faith is most difficult for you? When do you wish you were less afraid?

### Living it out

Think about a time in your life when God helped you, or about an event in the future that you want God to help you with. Take some time today, maybe during FOB or free time, to pray about it and ask God to help you be fearless and have confidence to tell other people about how God is at work in your life.

### Personal Example or Story

(Share a story about a time when you were afraid, but trusted God, or a time when you should have been afraid, but had confidence in God.)

### Final summary and task for the day

Take the paper that you wrote your fears on, and rip it up into as many small pieces as you can. Then you can walk as a cabin to the tub of dirt and burry your fears in it. Your fears will be composted so they can provide life for plants (and then us because of oxygen.)

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### Friday: Living it out, Habits of Trust

Main Idea: If we have a trust in God, it will affect how we live and think. There are certain habits we can adopt to help us live lives of trust and fearless faith.

### Opening Prayer

### Activity

Have a contest to see who remembers the most about what the cabin did over the week.

### Questions and Conversation for Debriefing

What are some habits that you have? Good ones? Bad ones? How do they affect how you live?

### Setting the Stage

Our story today talks about Daniel. Daniel was taken from his home and forced to live in a strange new country. But that didn't stop him from following God. Daniel served king Darius well and gained position in the government. Pay attention to what the passage says about Daniel and what habits Daniel has.

### Looking at the Text

Daniel 6:1-23

6: Darius decided<sup>1</sup> to appoint 120 satraps (like governors) over the kingdom, stationed throughout the realm,<sup>2</sup> and over them three administrators, including Daniel. These satraps would be accountable to them so that the king would not be defrauded.<sup>3</sup> Daniel<sup>4</sup> distinguished himself above the administrators and satraps because he had an extraordinary spirit, so the king planned to set him over the whole realm.<sup>4</sup> The administrators and satraps, therefore, kept trying to find a charge against Daniel regarding the kingdom. But they could find no charge or corruption, for he was trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was found in him.<sup>5</sup> Then these men said, “We will never find any charge against this Daniel unless we find something against him concerning the law of his God.”

<sup>6</sup>So the administrators and satraps went together to the king and said to him, “May King Darius live forever.<sup>7</sup> All the administrators of the kingdom, the prefects, satraps, advisers, and governors have agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an edict that for thirty days, anyone who petitions any god or man except you, the king, will be thrown into the lions’ den.<sup>8</sup> Therefore, Your Majesty, establish the edict and sign the document so that, as a law of the Medes and Persians, it is irrevocable and cannot be changed.”<sup>9</sup> So King Darius signed the written edict.

<sup>10</sup>When Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went into his house. The windows in its upstairs room opened toward Jerusalem, and three times a day he got down on his knees, prayed, and gave thanks to his God, just as he had done before.<sup>11</sup> Then these men went as a group and found Daniel petitioning and imploring his God.<sup>12</sup> So they approached the king and asked about his edict: “Didn’t you sign an edict that for thirty days any person who petitions any god or man except you, the king, will be thrown into the lions’ den?”

The king answered, “As a law of the Medes and Persians, the order stands<sup>13</sup> and is irrevocable.”

<sup>13</sup>Then they replied to the king, “Daniel, one of the Judean exiles, has ignored you, the king, and the edict you signed, for he prays three times a day.”<sup>14</sup> As soon as the king heard this, he was very displeased; he set his mind on rescuing Daniel and made every effort until sundown to deliver him.

<sup>15</sup>Then these men went together to the king and said to him, “You know, Your Majesty, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no edict or ordinance the king establishes can be changed.”

<sup>16</sup>So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you continually serve, rescue you!”<sup>17</sup> A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing in regard to Daniel could be changed.<sup>18</sup> Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting. No diversions<sup>19</sup> were brought to him, and he could not sleep.

<sup>19</sup>At the first light of dawn the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den.<sup>20</sup> When he reached the den, he cried out in anguish to Daniel. “Daniel, servant of the living God,” the king said,<sup>21</sup> “has your God, whom you continually serve, been able to rescue you from the lions?”

<sup>21</sup>Then Daniel spoke with the king: “May the king live forever. <sup>22</sup>My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths; and they haven’t harmed me, for I was found innocent before him. And also before you, Your Majesty, I have not done harm.”

<sup>23</sup>The king was overjoyed and gave orders to take Daniel out of the den. When Daniel was brought up from the den, he was found to be unharmed, for he trusted in his God.

### Reflecting on the Text

What did you notice about Daniel? What did it look like for Daniel to trust God? What habits did Daniel have that might have helped him trust God? What doesn’t make sense to you in this passage? What stuck out to you? What surprised you?

### Searching Deeper

Daniel is put in a difficult position in this story. He does his job well and is rewarded for it, but his good work also angers the other administrators. Then they force him to decide between following the law and worshipping God. Daniel, of course, chooses God, knowing that it might not end well for him.

This story shows something about what it means to have fearless faith. Daniel didn’t just decide out of the blue to choose God. Daniel had a habit, or pattern of praying regularly. He probably also studied the scriptures often and worshiped with his community. These habits affected how Daniel lived. Daniel was known for not being corrupt, for being trustworthy, and for doing his job well.

Praying and reading the Bible helps us to stay connected with God and God’s plans. We bring our concerns to God and receive reassurance that God is at work in the world. Reading the Bible, especially the Gospels, reminds us of who God is, and how God wants us to live.

Worshiping in community is important because we remember that we are not alone in our struggles. We also hear about how God is working in other people’s lives and can receive advice and direction from people who have maybe been through the same things we struggle with.

These habits made it easier for Daniel to have fearless faith and confidence in choosing God. They can also help us to grow in our fearless faith and confidence in God.

### Specific Questions to Think About

What faith habits are easy for you? What faith habits are hard for you? What do you think you can do to practice being fearless?

### Living it out

It is never too late to start praying, reading the Bible, and going to church. Pick one area to start working on when you get back home. Make your goal easy to start with, and then grow from there. Maybe it is reading 1 chapter of the Bible a day, or saying a prayer first thing in the morning, or going to youth group with a friend.

### Personal Example or Story

(Talk about some of the habits that you have to help you stay connected to God and how your faith has grown over time.)

### Final summary and task for the day

Trusting in God starts by knowing that God is good. We can trust God. As we pay attention to our worries we gain confidence and may start to trust God by doing things that stretch our comfort zones, like talking about our faith, taking on new responsibilities, or just being calm in a chaotic situation. We can grow our faith and trust in God when we build habits of trust such as praying, reading the Bible, and going to church. Today, think of how to summarize what you learned this week so you can be prepared when your parents ask!

#### Sample Camp Day:

7:45	Morning Praise	Patio
8:00	Breakfast	Dining Hall
8:40	Sign up for instructionals	Dining Hall
8:55	Cabin Cleanup	Cabins
9:30	Chapel	Green Cathedral
10:00	Camp Nature Activity	Trails/varrious
10:30	Cabin Bible Study	Various
11:00	Cabin Activity	Various
12:00	Lunch/ Mailbag	Dining Hall
12:45	F.O.B (Flat on Back)	Cabins
1:20	Free Swim	Pool
3:00	Snack	Patio
3:20	Change for instructionals	Cabins
3:50	Instructional Classes	Various
5:30	Supper/Cabin cleanup scores	Dining Hall
6:40	All Camp Activity	TBD
7:45	Snack	Patio
8:15	Campfire	TBD
9:30	Cabin Devotions	Cabins
10:30	Lights Out	Cabins

#### To send mail to your camper:

Send emails to [mailbag@mennohaven.com](mailto:mailbag@mennohaven.com) with your camper's name in the subject line.

Postal mail can be mailed to Menno Haven with your camper's name on the envelope.

Mail is handed out during lunch. Any mail received after 11:30am may not be handed out until the next day.

Remember that mail can be a fun way of sending encouragement to your camper and telling them how you have seen them grow in faith and character over the years!