

Do Not Fear  
Worship for a Small Group Gathering

Gathering

All who come from near and far, **come and worship.**  
All who thirst for God, **come and worship.**  
All whose hearts overflow with gratitude and hope, **come and worship.**  
All whose hearts may be filled with despair or grief, **come and worship.**  
All who come with doubts or fears, **come and worship.**  
All who come to this place with eager expectation, **come and worship.**  
Through the grace of God's Holy Spirit,  
**Come and worship Christ, our exalted King.**

Sing: Holy, Holy, Holy #538

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,  
and has made us to be a kingdom and priests  
to serve his God and Father—  
to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. (Rev. 1:5b)

Do Not Be Afraid

Sing: Don't Be Afraid #429 (2X)  
Loving God, there is much we should fear if we faced this day alone.  
But you, O Lord, are with us; thanks be to God!

Pray - Silently - *Give to God your personal fears (for family, health, safety, finances)*

Sing: Don't Be Afraid #429 (1x)

Rejoice in the Lord always.  
I will say it again: Rejoice!  
Let your gentleness be evident to all.  
The Lord is near.  
Do not be anxious about anything,  
but in every situation, by prayer and petition,  
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.  
And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:4-7)

Pray - Silently - *Give to God your fears for creation, the world, country, illness*

Sing: Don't Be Afraid #429 (1x)

The same voice that speaks over the waters and shakes the wilderness,  
The same voice that says "I am your God, you are my people,"  
The same voice that said "this is my beloved son."  
Now blesses the people with peace:  
"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."  
(Text: based on Psalm 29:2, 9; Ex. 20:9; Matt. 3:17; Is. 41:10)

### Have Courage

As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.  
Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to  
their ancestors to give them. "Be strong and very courageous." (Joshua 1:5,6, 7a)

Sharing...How do you 'take courage'? Share with each other something that God uses to  
give you courage - a verse or scripture passage, a song, a piece of art or an object, a friend,  
etc.

\*Note: If you have young children, consider reading a story from their Story Bible of a  
courageous biblical character such as Daniel, Joseph, Jairus (raising of his daughter), etc.

### Blessing and Sending

May God go before you to lead you;  
May God go behind you to guard you;  
May God go beneath you to support you;  
May God go beside you to befriend you.  
**Do not be afraid.**  
Let the blessing of God come upon you today.  
**Do not be afraid.**

Sing: Lord Make Us Servants #904 (Women only on st. 3; Men only st. 4; all st. 5)

The peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of God's Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

\*Note: All of the songs, readings, and prayers were taken from the Lift Up Your Hearts hymnal).