

Brave

Week 2 | The Red Scarf

■ BOTTOM LINE

Trusting God's love and bravely stepping into the unknown leads to experiencing true joy.

■ GOAL OF THE GROUP

To discover what happens when we accept the embrace of God's all-encompassing love, step out of our comfort zone to follow Him wherever he leads and experience the true JOY living in Him. The question is, are we brave enough to step out of the comfort?

■ SCRIPTURE

Acts 9:11-19

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Share:** What comes to mind when you hear the word "comfort"? Share a personal story of a comfort zone in your life.
2. Experiencing all God has for our lives and staying in our comfort zones do not go together. As a result, God often nudges us to move. Often fear prevents us from saying "yes" to God. What types of fear paralyze us?
3. **Read Acts 9:11-19 and Discuss:** In this story Ananias is asked by God to step out of his comfort zone. His story involves a man named Saul whose name was later changed to Paul. Paul was a Jew who for many years viewed the Jesus movement as being a cancer to the Jewish faith, so he made it his life mission to wipe it out.
 - a. If you were Ananias, what would you have thought about God's request?
 - b. Ananias had the courage to move and as a result, history changed, and lives saved. How can we find the courage to take hold of what God has for us?
4. It's important to understand that fear is a normal emotion. When discomfort increases, so does fear. Some people view fear as a terrible emotion and aim to get rid of it. Others think that if they have enough faith, they won't experience fear. It would be abnormal if we did not experience fear when asked to move out of a comfortable place. The problem comes when we allow fear to control our lives.
 - a. Notice Jesus' response to Ananias in verses 15-16. Jesus reminded Ananias of His incredible power and that He is in control. He has the power to soften the hardest of hearts. What does this assurance mean to you?
 - b. In saying this to Ananias, perhaps Jesus was trying to redirect his focus. When we remove our eyes from what causes fear (circumstance) and place our eyes on the one who is able to do the impossible (Jesus), we can overcome the control fear has in our life. What would you gain if you focused on Jesus in these moments?
5. This weekend, in the Kaleo Kids production of "The Red Scarf", the students us color to tell us a story about trusting God's love and bravely stepping into the unknown. Thy show us the true joy that can be experienced as a result. Think of a time in your life when God desired you to experience something in color and not black and white. What did you do? In the future will you look at black and white moments differently? Why or why not?

Fear loses its grip when our faith
in **SOMEONE** exceeds our fear in
SOMETHING.

K

TRY THIS

Discomfort grows faith. When Ananias said "yes" he had the privilege to be a part of an incredible transformation. His faith grew. The next time God gave him a little nudge, there was a little less fear and a lot more faith. When we step out of our comfort zone our faith grows. Sometimes our comfort zones are the walls that block us from God's best for our lives. When we dare to step beyond the walls, we open the doors to things we never thought possible. What step is God calling you to take today?

Brave

Week 1 | Nudges

■ BOTTOM LINE

"Nudges" are a big part of God's plan for the world. If you receive a nudge from God, great things are to follow.

■ GOAL OF THE GROUP

To help us each discover what God is calling us to do to share His love with everyone around us. God uses these moments to advance His mission and purpose in the world. The question is, are we brave enough to respond when God gives us a nudge?

■ SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:10 and Acts 8:26-40

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share:** Have you ever just gotten a strong feeling, a nudge, or an impression that you should do something? Perhaps it was to be generous to someone in need or speak a kind word to a stranger. Share what comes to mind.
- It's one thing to get "a nudge" born out of kindness and good will because it makes perfect sense. But it's another thing to get a nudge that doesn't make any sense at all. For example, "I don't know why but I felt like God wanted me to start up a conversation with this person and then I found out why later." Sometimes people find out right away, sometimes it's down the road, or they may never find out.
 - Read Ephesians 2:10.** If a nudge comes from God, can we be confident that great things are to follow? Why or why not?
 - When God gives us nudges, they sometimes require us to step out of our comfort zone. How does the temptation to live in the familiar impact this?
 - Besides courage what is required to be brave and step into a nudge with an unknown conclusion?
- Read Acts 8:26-40 and Discuss.**
 - The nudge Philip received in this scripture was a big one. What could have happened if he didn't go?
 - The Ethiopian eunuch in the chariot was a man of incredible power to the queen. What do you think Philip must have thought about what God was asking him to do?
 - Can you think of a time when God nudged you to do something that felt intimidating? What did you do?
 - Do you find it difficult to act on something when you cannot see the big picture? Why?
 - "Please tell me" in verse 34 means God was working in the heart of this Ethiopian man long before Phillip came on the scene. God had a prepared work and He knew it long before Phillip did. If we say no to a nudge, do you think we could pass by things God prepared for us in advance?
- When we are connected and pursuing God (we should not always be ones that have to be pursued BY God), we won't miss the Holy Spirit leading in our lives. How can we be close enough in our walk with Christ to hear Him clearly and know what He wants us to do?

It's always for God's GLORY, and
it's always for our BENEFIT!

K

TRY THIS

EVERY time a nudge comes from God – GREAT THINGS are in store.

We will NEVER know – until we GO.

What is God asking you to do? How is he asking you to be BRAVE and step out of your comfort zone?