

January 29 | Sunday
UnAfraid: Fear of Failure
Read [Luke 5:1-11](#)



30 | Mon – Excuses? | Read [Exodus 3:2-4, 9-11, 13](#) and [4:1, 10, 13](#); [Deut. 34:10-12](#)

As you read Moses' reasons for not doing what God was calling him to do, do some of them resonate with you? Moses seemed to think that only a strong, important person could carry out God's call. Is God calling you to do something that exceeds your abilities? Ask Him to help you shift your focus from your limitations to God's strength to equip you for the task. All God needs is a willing heart.

31 | Tue – Giant reasons to be afraid? | Read [1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32-37, 41-45](#)

This is one of the first Bible stories most children learn in Sunday School. Goliath was big enough to terrify King Saul and the entire Israelite army but not David. Why? Was it because David focused more on the size of his God than on the size of his enemy? What "giants" are you facing in your life right now? How can you be more like David than King Saul? Look again at David's words and apply them to the giant in front of you.

01 | Wed – Don't lose your nerve! | Read [Numbers 13:1-3, 27-33](#) and [14:1-3](#)

As Israel neared the land God promised to give them, Moses sent 12 men to scout it out. When they returned, 10 men focused on the obstacles and were terrified. Only Caleb and Joshua saw God's power and urged the people to move ahead. This story shows two things about fear. First, it is contagious, so watch who you listen to. And second, it clouds the ability to think clearly. What fears arise when you think about what God might be calling you to do? Ask God to give you the kind of faith Caleb and Joshua displayed.

02 | Thu – It's not over til it's over | Read [Psalm 73:1-13](#) and [Daniel 8:12-25](#)

Both Psalm 73 and Daniel 18 reflect a spiritual puzzle. People who ignore God seem to be more successful at times than those who love God. Daniel's vision of future events shows an evil political power succeeding for a long period of time and then that power was broken. Are there times in your life, or even now, when you see evil flourishing? Ask God to give you an eternal perspective when you see the apparent success of wicked people.

03 | Fri – Too young? Too old? | Read [1 Timothy 1:3-5](#) and [4:8-16](#)

In God's big story, we often see that He used people considered too old to be useful (like Moses or Abraham) or too young to serve (like Jeremiah or Timothy). Paul wrote to his young associate, Timothy, urging him to fulfill his call with confidence and trust in God. If you a younger person, do not let yourself be intimidated by older "wiser" people who do not value your spiritual gifts. If you are an older person, please do not look down on what younger people are being called to do. They need your prayer and encouragement. And please don't retire from serving God. You are useful and needed!

04 | Sat – When all is said and done... | Read [Isaiah 52:13](#) and [53:1-11](#)

Jesus quoted part of this passage and applied it to himself (see Luke 22:37). Anyone who lived in Jesus' time could have seen his death and justifiably called him a failure. Jesus healed and taught and fed and forgave without reservation and then he was killed. No one really expects to defeat evil by surrender but that is just what Jesus did, taking all sin upon himself. Apparently God's definition of success is very different from ours. What does that tell you about any failures you may experience? They don't have to be the end of the story.