

July 8 | Sunday

Facing Fear, Embracing Change

Read [Luke 8:26-39](#)



09 | Mon – Two reactions | Read [Luke 8:38-39](#) and [Exodus 17:1-7](#)

Changes are a fact of life. They may be planned and welcomed or unexpected and unwanted. Look at the reactions in these two stories. How did the man in the cemetery respond after Jesus delivered him from demonic tormentors? How did the Jewish slaves react a few months into their new life of freedom? Which embraced life change most readily? How do you handle change in your life?

10 | Tue – On their own | Read [Genesis 50:18-20](#), [Esther 4:12-16](#), [Daniel 1:4, 17-20](#)

Some decisions are made for you. Think of Joseph, Esther, Daniel. These three young people had no choice about what happened to them. They did realize, however, they could choose their response to these unwelcome circumstances. When you read their stories, you will see a common thread - trusting God to help them live wisely and remain faithful to Him. As they embraced their new lives in God-honoring ways, their choices impacted history. When the unexpected happens to you or your children can you trust God for a good ending?

11 | Wed – The immigrant widow | Read [Ruth 1:14-22, 2:10-12, 4:13-22](#) & [Matt. 1:5-6-16](#)

Ruth's life was radically changed by unexpected tragedy. She was married and widowed at a young age. Choosing to immigrate with her also widowed mother-in-law resulted in learning unfamiliar customs, language and culture. She adapted with grace because her heart trusted in the Lord. Her story directly affects you today because she ended up in Jesus' family tree. How will you respond to unexpected change? It *will* impact someone's future.

12 | Thu – The faithful wanderer | Read [Hebrews 11:8-12](#)

Abraham's story starts with a challenge. An unseen God asked Abraham to leave his home for the unknown place where God would lead him. By faith, Abraham voluntarily left all that he knew and the rest is history. Have you ever sensed God calling you out of a good job or a relationship or even your hometown, promising you something even better down the road? Have you been asked to let go of something *before* seeing what would eventually take its place? What did you do and what was the result?

13 | Fri – The reluctant warrior | Read [Judges 6:13-16](#) and [8:28](#)

God found Gideon in hiding, trying to protect his small store of food from the marauders who had overrun his country. It took some convincing before this unlikely candidate faced his fears and embraced the role God asked him to take in delivering the nation from invaders. His mission succeeded because Gideon was willing to follow God's plan. And you? Do you also feel inadequate to make the changes God is asking of you? All it requires is obedience.

14 | Sat – Reality | Read [Psalm 46:1-11, 55:18-19](#) and [Isaiah 41:10](#)

Life change may come with no warning. A job loss wipes out financial security, a fire destroys your home, an affair decimates your marriage, an accident claims the life of someone you love. Any of these can alter your life in seconds, but you do not have to live in fear because your God does not change. You are not alone. You do not face life by yourself. *Now* is the time to search out the promises of God which will sustain you when the unexpected happens.