

To Our Guests

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Deacons On Call This Week

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Courage to Carry On
Joshua - 5
Pastor Michael Rochelle
March 4/5, 2017

"Then the Lord said to Joshua, 'Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Take the whole army with you, and go up and attack Ai. For I have delivered into your hands, the king of Ai, his people, his city and his land.'" Joshua 8:1 (NIV)

"We have suffered terror and pitfalls, ruin and destruction. Streams of tears flow from my eyes because of the destruction of my people!" Lamentations 3:47-48 (NLT)

"I have cried until the tears no longer come. My heart is broken, my spirit poured out, as I see what has happened to my people." Lamentations 2:11 (NLT)

1. CENTER YOUR ATTENTION ON **GOD**

"Then Joshua built on Mount Ebal an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel." Joshua 8:30 (NIV)

"When life is heavy and hard to take, go off by yourself. Enter the silence. Bow in prayer. Don't ask questions. Wait for hope to appear." Lamentations 3:28-29 (Message)

Jesus: "Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense His grace." Matthew 6:6 (Message)

2. CALL ON GOD TO REMOVE YOUR **FEARS**

"Then the Lord said to Joshua, 'Do not be afraid...'" Joshua 8:1 (NIV)

"From the bottom of the pit, I cried out to You, O Lord. And when I begged You to listen to my cry, You heard. And You answered me and told me not to be afraid." Lamentations 3:55-57 (GN)

We deal with fear by...

- Living with **truth**
"...the truth will set you free..." John 8:32 (NIV)
- Living with **love**
"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out all fear..." 1 John 4:18 (NIV)
- Living with **faith**
"I prayed to the Lord, and He answered me, freeing me from all my fears." Psalm 34:4 (NLT)

3. BE CONVINCED THAT GOD WILL **RESTORE** YOU

"Half of the people stood in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the Lord had formerly commanded when he gave instructions to bless the people of Israel." Joshua 8:33 (NIV)

"Restore us, O Lord, and bring us back to You again! Give us back the joys we once had!" Lamentations 5:21 (NLT)

"I would have despaired unless I had believed that I'd see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Psalm 27:13 (NAS)

What to do in a crisis. . .

- **Report** it to God
"When I lost all hope I once again turned my thoughts to the Lord." Jonah 2:7 (TLB)
- **Refuse** to resign
- **Run** from resentment
"The Lord is good to everyone who trusts in Him. So it is best for us to wait in patience—to wait for Him to save us." Lamentations 3:25-26 (TEV)

4. CONSIDER WHAT NEVER **CHANGES**

"Afterward, Joshua read all the words of the law – the blessings and the curses – just as it is written in the Book of the Law." Joshua 8:34 (NIV)

- God is still in **control**
"We are sick at our very hearts and can hardly see through our tears... But you, O Lord, are king forever and will rule to the end of time!" Lamentations 5:17 & 19 (TEV)
- God **loves** me
"I'll never forget the trouble, the utter lostness, the taste of ashes, the poison I've swallowed. I remember it all...the feeling of hitting the bottom. BUT there's one other thing I remember, and remembering it, I keep a grip on hope: God's loyal love couldn't have run out, His merciful love couldn't have dried up. They're created new every morning. How great is Your faithfulness!" Lamentations 2:19-23 (Message)
- God is all I **need**
"Deep in my heart I say, 'The Lord is all I need I can depend on Him!'" Lamentations 3:24 (CEV)