

Faith (not Fear)

John 14; Luke 7:1-10

These are indeed uncertain days. Covid-19 (corona virus) has brought us to a place most of us have never experienced before. A global pandemic. Schools closed. Sporting events canceled. The stock market tumbling. Times like this can cause a myriad of questions and concerns and feelings. “Will I be safe?” “Will my loved one be safe?” It is good to know that we are not left to fend for ourselves. We are not alone. Jesus is with us. And because this is true, we CAN walk in faith not fear during such times.

Opening Question: How has the corona virus been affecting you?

Read John 14:1

1. What is the context (skim back over chapter 13)?
2. Obviously, the things Jesus had just told them about what was going to happen stirred up some things in the disciples’ hearts. How does Jesus encourage his disciples to respond?

Read Luke 7:1-10

3. What was the troubling situation faced by the centurion? How did he respond? What does he do?
4. How does Jesus respond to the centurion? What does he notice?
5. As you reflect on how you have been or are responding to the corona virus, what do you think Jesus is noticing about you?

6. Steve encouraged three specific ways that we can live by faith: (1) treasure up specific Scriptures in our hearts that fuel faith; (2) pray; and (3) let your faith produce works.
- What Scriptures are most encouraging to you during times like this?
 - Steve shared the idea of praying for all affected by Covid-19 every time you wash your hands. What other ideas do you have about how to pray in these days?
 - What are some ways that your faith can produce good works in this situation?

Steve gave this quote:

Let us have the attitude of the early church toward the sick and suffering even at personal cost. In the year 260 AD, Bishop Dionysius of Corinth praised the efforts of Christians for victims of a plague, many of whom died while caring for others: *“Most of our brother Christians showed unbounded love and loyalty, never sparing themselves, and thinking only of one another. Heedless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ, and with them departed this life serenely happy; for they were infected by others with the disease, drawing on themselves the sickness of their neighbors and cheerfully accepting their pains.”*

7. What opportunities are there for us as believers to serve and give testimony to our faith in Jesus during these days by our “unbounded love”?

Practicing the Rhythms of Rooted



Daily Devotion: Consider reflecting on passages such as Psalm 23, 46, 91; Isaiah 40; Romans 8



Generosity: What are ways you can be generous during these days? Do you have supplies that others might need? Etc.



Serve our community: What are ways that you can serve our community? Do you have an elderly neighbor for whom you can buy groceries? Is there someone who might be lonely due to being shut in that you can reach out to?



Share your story: Ask God to open doors for you to speak of the hope that you have in Jesus during times like this. Consider ways to take the conversation deeper with questions like, “How are you doing? Are you feeling anxious at all because of this virus?” Such questions can open doors to share the hope that you have.