



Audio Disc: #11

Artist: Laura Story
Album: Great God Who Saves

Theme
Worship

Devotional 12 GREAT GOD WHO SAVES LAURA STORY

1 Start Up

As the students arrive, hand them each a list of different types of phobias (you can find lists online), but make sure the phobias are NOT defined. Ask them to write their own definition of what they think each phobia is and if they are afraid of it. After a few minutes, provide the proper definitions for each phobia. Then ask the students to reveal their answers, which usually make great sense but are absolutely incorrect! Segue into a time of discussion about fears and how we can overcome them.

2 Get Focused

Share a time in your own life when you were genuinely afraid (it can be a time as a child when you were alone in the dark, or a more serious fear you experienced as an adult). Ask your

students if they can relate to genuine fear. Today our culture is entertained by the idea of fear (Fear Factor ring a bell?), but our personal fears are off-limits. We don't like to have our own fears exposed, and very rarely do we admit having them.

Share the following points with your group, adding your own illustrations and anecdotes to make this devotion personal to them. Offer some background information on the life of David, and how, as someone who God had protected many times before, he was continually learning to trust that only God could truly save him from his enemies and fears.

2 Samuel 22:1-3 (The Message//Remix)

"David prayed to God the words of this song after God saved him from all his enemies and from Saul. 'God is bedrock under my feet, the castle in which I live, my rescuing knight. My God — the high crag where I run for dear life, hiding behind the boulders, safe in the granite hideout; my mountaintop refuge, he saves me from ruthless men.'"

- 1) God wants to be our strong footing in times of peace and in times of strife. Everything in our world today tells us we need to be strong on our own, but God is calling us to go against the grain of culture and depend fully on Him.
- 2) God wants to save us from fear. We were created without a spirit of fear, but so often we choose fear over God's promise. He offers us safety from our fears (2 Timothy 1:7), but sometimes that safety is solely in Him and void of anything else, which causes us to trust Him more. What an AWESOME God He proves to be.

We all face enemies, both physically and spiritually. Today many of us can relate to the fears David describes, but most of us are never actually physically threatened. (This may be a great time to offer a safe place for any student who might be in an abusive situation.) While it might not seem prevalent in your group, many people hide abuse out of embarrassment and shame. Encourage your students to talk to you privately and with confidence if they are ever physically threatened. Challenge others who face spiritual fears to trust God's saving power (John 10:1-10).

3 Wind Down

As you conclude, ask your students to think of a time when they were genuinely afraid and how they got past their fears. Did they simply outgrow them? Or do they continue to hide their fears? Challenge them to place their fears at God's feet and allow Him to become their "rescuing knight," as David described. Encourage them to trust the "great God who saves."