

Adult Group Study Guide for May 31, 2020

Series: "We'll Get Through This Together"

Message: "Looking Forward to Normal"

Goal: To find new ways to grow spiritually through this time of crisis and beyond.

Key Verse: *For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.* – 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV2011)

1. These days we are hearing a lot about "risk management" as the economy is starting to open up while the coronavirus crisis is still with us. How would you describe yourself to others – are you cautious or daring or somewhere in between? Do you have someone else in your life who see things differently? How is that conversation going?
2. Review the story of the twelve spies who were sent to the Promised Land (Canaan) in Numbers 13:16-33. Contrast the report of the bounty of the land, with the size of the people and the security of their cities. How do you explain the difficulty that the Israelite community faced in the light of the promise of God that they would possess the land? What do you do when you feel like you are a grasshopper facing a giant?
3. Read the key verse above (2 Timothy 1:7). How does the power, love, and self-discipline given to us by the Holy Spirit as help us overcome our timidity? Why are all three gifts needed for us to respond to fear in appropriate ways?
4. Pastor Austin talked about three shifts that are already happening in the church in response to the COVID-19 pandemic: 1) Technology is here to stay, 2) A refocusing on small groups, and 3) Shifting from Sunday to everyday. What new possibilities does each one of these bring? How do they open us to wider, deeper expressions of faith in Christ?
5. How can this crisis help us move from being "Sunday Christians" to "Everyday Christians"? (1 Chronicles 16:23-25) What difference would that make in your life?
6. What changes will you make in the way you practice your faith that may help you get through this crisis and continue to grow spiritually no matter what the future holds? How can you come along side someone else to help them to grow spiritually?