



These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

## Message Recap:

**Read Luke 1:37, Matthew 7:13, I Thessalonians 1:9**

Satan uses fear to block the glory of God. There is glory beyond our fears when we trust, believe and have faith in Jesus. We can either choose fear and failure or faith and glory. Glory is defined as a growing perception of the infinite goodness and love of the absolute power and majesty of God. Getting to glory requires us to face our fears and run toward them. We can then begin comparing our stories with what we see in the Bible. We see these fear to glory stories through out the Bible - Mary and the birth of Jesus (Luke 1:46-55); Zachariah and the naming of John the Baptist (Luke 1:76-79); the men and the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:16-18); and Moses and the parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 14:13-14). You too can believe there is God's glory behind your fears because no word of God will ever fail (Luke 1:37). Choose to believe the better story.

## Pray

Dear Jesus, your glory is evident throughout the stories we hear. Guide us to believe and have faith...to face our fears knowing you will walk with us so ultimately we can bring you glory. Give us courage and grace as we trust and have faith in you. Amen

## Getting Started

- When watching Reality TV how do the participants handle the fear they face?
- Do good people go to heaven? Why or why not?

## Digging Deeper

1. Explain how I Thessalonians 1:9 is the message of Christmas: "Jesus (is the one) who rescues us from the coming wrath."
2. Compare and contrast the two possible paths for our life: Fear and failure or faith and glory.
3. What has been your experience of powering your way through fear filled situations?
4. Read Mary's story in Luke 1:45-55. What is the glory she is able to see beyond the fear she's facing?
5. What role does faith play in your ability to run toward and not away from your fears?
6. How does comparing stories of the past help you with the fear you face today?
7. Does trusting in God always prevent failure? Why or why not?

## Living Jesus

We all experience fear and fearful situations in our lives. We see again and again through the Bible stories of fear being faced and faith coming through to bring ultimate glory to God. Consider the fears you are facing today. Are you running from them or are you running toward your fear in faith? Ask God to guide you toward facing your fears and seeing his glory on the other side of the situation.

## What's Your Story?

Knowing we all have had to face fears, what is your "fear" story? How did your experience bring glory to God?

Encourage others by sharing your story! >> **Go to [SevernRunner.info](http://SevernRunner.info) and choose the Stories tile. Then follow the link provided to share your own story; we will even connect you with a writer to help you tell your Jesus story.**