

# Fearless by FAITH

HOW *to* FIGHT

TODAY'S SPIRITUAL BATTLES

BY BROTHER ANDREW AND AL JANSSEN

**A Discussion Guide for Bible Studies,  
Prayer Groups and Book Clubs**

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# — INTRODUCTION —

## For Leaders of Discussion Groups, Book Clubs or Bible Studies

This guide is designed for Bible studies, prayer teams, book clubs and other small groups to discuss the content of *Fearless by Faith* by Brother Andrew and Al Janssen. Individuals or couples may benefit from this guide as well. To maximize the benefit, plan on spending about 1 ½ hours together once a week for ten weeks. Each person involved will need a copy of the book (print or electronic) and will commit to read the six short devotions each week before meeting together.

There are two sections in *Fearless by Faith*. Part one, “Fearless Listening” to God. Part two, “Fearless Fighting” God-directed battles. Each section has five groupings organized by biblical instructors David, Elijah, Jonah, Moses and Gideon. Ideally, each participant should read one devotion per day and spend a few minutes thinking and praying about the reflection question at the end of each reading. We recommend that each group session begin with a discussion of what participants have gained from the six devotions that week. Some may find it helpful to keep a journal and record what they sense God is saying to them as they proceed through the book and the small group discussions.

**Participants in a group will have various reasons for wanting to participate in a study of this book. Some of their felt needs could include:**

- I need to confront fear in my life and stand firm in my faith.
- I want to understand more deeply God’s call on my life.
- I desire to walk more closely to God as Brother Andrew and other heroes of our faith have done.
- I recognize I am in a spiritual battle, and I want to be prepared for the warfare.
- I want to defeat the giants in my life that make me feel afraid.
- I need encouragement as I live amidst the external pressures I feel around me.

You might present this list in the first meeting and allow participants to express what they sense as their need as they begin this study.

**The following are some of the benefits we pray will come out of the study for each participant:**

- Become aware of the spiritual battles raging around them
- Discern the spiritual assignment God has for each of them in the conflict
- Uncover the divine tools and weapons for the supernatural war here on earth
- Reveal how the Old Testament heroes were ordinary people like us that God called and equipped to win spiritual battles

Leaders, before you meet, spend time praying for each person in the group. Ask God to reveal to you their needs and ask Him to bring about these benefits during the ten weeks you are together.

Before each session, review the questions in this guide. In some, perhaps most cases, there will be more than can be covered in the time allotted. Pray about this and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to the questions and topics you should prioritize. Questions are generally open-ended. Listen to answers with one ear out and one ear up—hearing the words spoken while tuned to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

# DAVID, PART 1 (PP. 31–54)

## Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 17

Prior to the first gathering, each participant should read the preface (pp. 13–17), “Meet Your Instructors” (pp. 19–26), introduction to “Fearless Listening” (pp. 29–30), and the six devotions about David.

**Opening question:** Reading the introduction to this part, “Fearless Listening,” how would you rate your ability to hear God’s clear direction for your life? (We will return to this at end of the first session on Gideon.)

Invite each person to briefly tell the group what they gained from the six devotions about David. It could be one aspect of Brother Andrew’s teaching. Or, perhaps a particular question in “For Reflection” at the conclusion of each devotion that impacted him or her the most.

### FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What “giants” are you/we facing today?
2. Read 1 Samuel 17:1–11. Why is Israel afraid? What lies are they hearing? What options did they have for responding to Goliath’s challenge?
3. What are some methods our spiritual enemy, the devil, used against Israel, and uses against us today?
4. Brother Andrew states that we must fight the enemy’s words with the Word (see page 37). How can we do that? (For example, you might refer to how Jesus resisted Satan’s temptations in the wilderness. See Matthew 4:3–11.)
5. Why was David considered a man after God’s heart? If time allows, read slowly as a group one of the following psalms: 3, 4, 9 or 14. What do we learn about God in this psalm? What does the psalm reveal about David’s heart?
6. When David realized that he was called to fight Goliath, why didn’t he rush into battle? Why did he seek Saul’s blessing first?
7. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3–5. What evidence do you see of spiritual conflict in the news and issues of the day?

# ELIJAH, PART 1 (PP. 55–78)

## Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 17:1–18:1

Invite each person to briefly tell the group one thing they gained from the six devotions about Elijah.

Ask each person to share: Which question from the “For Reflection” at the end of each reading challenged you? How or why?

### FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Elijah was called to confront the evil culture in Israel, dominated by worship of Baal. What are some of the cultural issues confronting us as Christians today?
2. Read 1 Kings 17:1–24. What spiritual practices do you observe, or speculate that Elijah observed, during these three years?
3. What did Elijah learn about God and His ways by spending time at Cherith Brook?
4. What did Elijah learn about God during the time he lived with the widow and her son in Zarephath?
5. Read James 5:17–18. Does this comparison with Elijah encourage you or discourage you? Why?
6. What do you sense is God’s training plan for you? Consider Elijah’s experience with the widow and her son in Zarephath. Has He placed you in some impossible circumstance where the only solution is for God to act? What is your reaction?

Listen carefully to the answers to the last question. What need(s) are you hearing? Take some time at the end of the session to pray about the situation(s) your group is facing.

# JONAH, PART 1 (PP. 79–102)

## Scripture Reading: Jonah 1 and 2

Invite each person to briefly tell the group one thing they gained from the six devotions about Jonah.

**Ask the group:** Is there one particular question in the “For Reflection” sections that you sensed was directed particularly at you?

### FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How much do you identify with Jonah? Was his opinion of Nineveh justified? Why or why not?
2. What can we learn about God from the story of Jonah—God’s work, His character, His heart and compassion for people?
3. Reread Jonah 2. All of these verses taken are from various psalms.
  - In what ways can you identify with Jonah’s prayer?
  - What does this prayer show you about how you can pray today?
  - What is missing from this prayer? (You might note that there is no prayer for the people of Nineveh.)
4. Have you ever run away from what you believed was God’s call on your life? What were the circumstances? Is God calling you a second time? Or has that opportunity passed, and perhaps God is issuing a new call? Share as a group and pray for one another.
5. Read aloud Psalm 139:7-12. What does this tell you about God? Why is it futile to run away from God?
6. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12. What does it mean to be given over to death for Jesus’ sake? How might this comprise “sacramental living” as expressed by Brother Andrew? (see pp. 93-96)
7. Do you have a message for the world? What is it? Do you feel qualified to deliver that message? Why or why not?

# MOSES, PART 1 (PP. 103–126)

## Scripture Reading: Exodus 2, 3 and 4

**Invite each person to briefly tell the group what they gained from the six devotions about Moses.**

It could be one aspect of Brother Andrew's teaching. Or, perhaps a particular question in "For Reflection" at the conclusion of each devotion that impacted him or her the most.

### FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Read together Exodus 1:8–22 and 2:11–15. What evidence of injustice do you see? What options did the Israelites have? What could one person (e.g. Moses) do?
2. Moses was nearing retirement age. If you are retired, how do you use your time? If you are not, think ahead to the day when you will not be employed. What thoughts do you have about how you will use your time?
3. Review the conversation between Yahweh and Moses. Suggestion: read aloud Exodus 3:7–4:17. You might assign one person to read the narration, another to read the words of God and a third to read the words of Moses. After hearing the dialogue, ask the group: What strikes you about the discussion? What do you learn about God from this conversation?

God spoke to Moses out of a burning bush—a most spectacular moment that God used to reveal His call to Moses. Few have such a dramatic call. How have you heard God speak to you? Or if you haven't, how will you recognize His voice?

If you haven't received a specific call from God, perhaps the time isn't right. Moses was eighty before he was commissioned. How can you prepare to hear God's call on your life? (During closing prayer time together, ask God to reveal His specific call in His timing to each person.)

How do you feel about receiving an impossible assignment from God? Why does God place us in circumstances so far beyond our abilities?

Moses met with God face-to-face. How close do you want to get with God?

4. God's mission begins with two vital ingredients—knowing God and knowing God's heart for people. Which would you say is stronger in your life? How can you improve the weaker area?
5. How is your family affected by your call?
6. Where do you feel inadequate for your mission? Have you talked with God about this?

If there is time, read Hebrews 11:23–29. The life of Moses is summed up in these seven verses. Note the phrase "by faith" is mentioned five times. Since this is the key to Moses's life/ministry, how is that faith expressed and lived out?

# GIDEON, PART 1 (PP. 127–150)

## Scripture Reading: Judges 6

Invite each person to briefly tell the group one thing they gained from the six devotions about Gideon.

**Ask the group:** Is there one particular question in the “For Reflection” sections that you sensed was directed particularly at you?

### FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What fears did Gideon have when God gave His Commission? How did God address Gideon’s fears?
2. Read Matthew 28:16–20. What fears do you have as you reflect on this Great Commission call of Jesus?
3. Read 2 Timothy 1:7. How can you prevent fear from paralyzing you?
4. Gideon started out as a secret believer. His first acts of faith occurred at night. How safe do you feel about expressing your Christian faith (in your family, with a neighbor, in your community)?
5. Does everyone in the group have a plan for reading the Bible? Ideally, Christians should try and read through the entire Bible in a year. Discuss various reading plans.
6. Do you believe God has a message for you each day in His Word? Would you be comfortable answering this question: What do you hear God saying to each of you in His Word today? (p. 134)
7. On a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 meaning “I am paralyzed by fear” and 10 “I am filled with courage and have no fear” identify where you are today. What would be one step you can take now to move you away from fear and closer to courage?

**Conclusion to part one, “FearLess Listening”:** Allow time for each person to reflect on what they have been hearing from God these past five weeks. What has God revealed to you about the spiritual war raging in the world today? Are you sensing a call to get involved in the battle? Where? When? How? Important: You may not have a lot of details yet. Listening to God is not a onetime event. Often, you will only discern the first step, and then God will reveal additional steps as you move forward in obedience.

For additional discussion and prayer: Look at [OpenDoors.org/EN-US/Persecution/Countries/](https://www.opendoors.org/en-us/persecution/countries/) and pick a country. Read the details of persecution in that country and spend some time praying for the Christians there.

# DAVID, PART 2 (PP. 155–178)

Prior to this meeting, each participant should read the introduction to “Fearless Fighting” (pp. 153–154)

## Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 17

**Ask the Group:** Reflect on the introduction to part two, “Fearless Fighting.” Read aloud the paragraph by Dietrich Bonhoeffer on page 154. Has fear hindered you from engaging in the spiritual battles raging today? If so, how?

**Invite each person to briefly tell the group what they gained from the six devotions about David.** It could be one aspect of Brother Andrew’s teaching. Or, perhaps a particular question in “For Reflection” at the conclusion of each devotion that impacted him or her the most.

### FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Read Ephesians 6:11-12. Why is Paul so insistent that our battles are ultimately spiritual? What evidence do you see in David’s confrontation with Goliath that this was more a spiritual battle than physical?
2. How are we tempted to compromise with the enemies of God?
3. Why is it critical to know the truth? Where do we find it? How does that prepare us to confront the world when it says “all roads lead to God” or “there is no God” or “you can’t impose your truth on me”?
4. What role can truth, especially truth about God, serve to confront our fears?
5. Jesus said “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32). How did truth set David free? How can it set us free in our culture today?
6. David used a sling and stone against the giant. What tools has God given you to fight today’s spiritual battles?
7. What lessons can we take away from David’s battle with Goliath that can apply to our lives and the spiritual battles we face?
8. What does it look like to glorify God in today’s spiritual battles?



# ELIJAH, PART 2 (PP. 179–202)

## Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 18 and 19

Invite each person to briefly tell the group one thing they gained from the six devotions about Elijah.

Ask each person to share: Which question from the “For Reflection” at the end of each reading challenged you? How or why?

### FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Read Deuteronomy 11:16–17. What did God clearly explain to His people? When drought arrived in Israel, how should the people have responded? Why didn't they—what was keeping them from the truth? What might this reveal to us about God when we face natural disasters today?
2. Reflect on what happened on Mount Carmel. We don't see many miracles today. Why?
3. Elijah is one of the heroes of Scripture. He was also a human being like us. What is his emotional state as he learns of Jezebel's threat? Do you believe he was led by God to run to Jezreel? Why or why not? Why does he panic and run away after Jezebel's threat?
4. What is evidence that Elijah burned out? Some believe Christians should never be depressed. But Elijah wanted to end his life. Why? What warning does this give us?
5. What happens to you spiritually, physically and emotionally when you are exhausted? Do you have a friend who can pray with you? What other support would be helpful?
6. How can you protect your emotional, physical and spiritual health in the midst of intense crisis and/or ministry? What warning signs should you look for?
7. Have you ever wanted to give God a piece of your mind, like Elijah did? What would you say to God?
8. How do you recognize God's voice when He speaks? How can we discern whether a message/social media post/news report is from God or is a lie inspired by God's enemy?
9. Elijah thought he was all alone in his battle, only to learn that there were seven thousand people who had not surrendered to Baal. Brother Andrew makes the point that some of them could have joined Elijah in the fight but perhaps were intimidated by the opposition (p. 200). What is your response to the thought that we should obey God's commands despite opposition?

# JONAH, PART 2 (PP. 203–226)

## Scripture Reading: : Jonah 3 and 4

Invite each person to briefly tell the group one thing they gained from the six devotions about Jonah.

**Ask the group:** Is there one particular question in the “For Reflection” sections that you sensed was directed particularly at you?

If any are comfortable, ask someone to tell about a time she/he didn’t obey a call from God and received a second chance. What happened?

### FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why is Jonah included in a book that teaches about fearless living and spiritual warfare? What role does preaching and sharing the gospel play in spiritual warfare?
2. Jonah was afraid God would change His mind and that would be embarrassing. What does that do to our reputation when God doesn’t fulfill our expectations?
3. The city of Nineveh responded to Jonah’s message. Do you think such a massive response to the Gospel is possible today? Why or why not?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:21. What is “the folly of what we preach”? Why is this message able to save those who believe?
5. Does it require courage to speak to enemies about Christ? Brother Andrew says it only requires obedience (see p. 220). Do you agree? Why or why not?
6. Why is winning our enemies to Christ the answer to the world’s conflicts? (Or is it?)
7. Read Exodus 34:6–7. This was what Jonah was referencing in Jonah 4:2. What has God revealed about Himself and His character in these passages? How might that affect your relations with friends and enemies?

**In the last ten minutes of the session, ask:** What is God preparing you to do? Or, what has God prepared you to do? Begin to invite people to talk about their response to what they’ve read and learned so far. Allow time for prayer in response to what is said.

# MOSES, PART 2

## Scripture Reading: Exodus 5, 7, 8 and 32–34

**Invite each person to briefly tell the group what they gained from the six devotions about Moses.** It could be one aspect of Brother Andrew’s teaching. Or, perhaps a particular question in “For Reflection” at the conclusion of each devotion that impacted him or her the most.

### FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Read Exodus 5–6:1. Ask if anyone would like to share a personal experience of following what he/she believed was God’s leading and then everything went wrong. What was your response? What did you learn? What do you see was Moses’s solution?
2. Read Exodus 5:22–23, where Moses spoke harshly to God. Are you comfortable with such honesty? Why or why not?
3. Moses was protected when he confronted Pharaoh. Brother Andrew makes the point that you are protected until your mission is accomplished (p. 234). Does that remove your fear? Or do you feel you need a lifetime guarantee? If it isn’t safe, why should/could you also not be afraid?
4. Exodus 32–33 describes an intense spiritual battle waged by Moses through prayer. Reflect on the context of that prayer—the creation and worship of a golden calf. What elements particularly strike you about how Moses prayed?
5. Do you believe God can really change His mind when we pray? Why or why not?
6. Read Romans 9:1–5. Compare the attitude of Paul with that of Moses, who was willing to become an atoning sacrifice for his people (see p. 249). What do the examples of Moses and Paul say to you about how we might intercede for the lost—in our family, our community and nation, and around the world? (This might also be a good time to revisit [OpenDoors.org/EN-US/Persecution/Countries/](https://OpenDoors.org/EN-US/Persecution/Countries/) and pray for a country where Christians are under severe persecution.)

# GIDEON, PART 2

## Scripture Reading: Judges 7-8

Invite each person to briefly tell the group one thing they gained from the six devotions about Gideon.

**Ask the group:** Is there one particular question in the “For Reflection” sections that you sensed was directed particularly at you?

### FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Never go to war alone. You need resources (p. 251). What resources has God given you/us for our spiritual battles? Can you identify one or more people who will intercede in prayer for you? Who can/should you intercede for?
2. Read Galatians 5:22-23. One of the fruits of the Spirit is peace. What does that look like to have God’s peace when you are engaged in spiritual warfare?
3. Brother Andrew lists some of the things he fears (pp. 259-260) and says that if you are never afraid, then you have no courage. What are some of the things causing fear in us today? What are some ways those fears can be addressed?
4. What encouragement have you received in addressing your fears? How can we encourage one another?
5. What are some weapons God provides us with today for spiritual warfare?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 15:57-58. How does God give us victory today through our Lord Jesus Christ?

**Spend the last half hour (or longer) discussing the following:**

- Have each reveal if they have received a call from God and if so, what they believe that is. Some may still be thinking about this. That’s okay as long as they continue the process of seeking and discerning God’s call.
- Ask each person to share what they believe is the next step in pursuing the battle God has called them to.
- Talk about how your group might be a support team for each individual in the group.

**Close with a time of prayer together and intercede with God concerning each person’s battle.**

# BEFORE YOU LEAVE...

I would love to get your reactions to this study guide and hear how God used it in your group. You can contact me through my website, [AlJanssen.com](http://AlJanssen.com), or email at [alfredgjanssen@gmail.com](mailto:alfredgjanssen@gmail.com).

If you would like to learn more about Brother Andrew, start here: [AlJanssen.com/Brother-Andrew/](http://AlJanssen.com/Brother-Andrew/)

I also invite you to sign up on [AlJanssen.com](http://AlJanssen.com) for a blog, sent to you once or twice a month, with more inspirational messages from Brother Andrew and notice of upcoming books. Some of the blogs also contain short video clips of Brother Andrew.

Finally, if you are not already on the mailing list for Open Doors, please go to [OpenDoorUS.org](http://OpenDoorUS.org) to learn more about the ministry Brother Andrew founded to support and strengthen the persecuted Church around the world. On this site you will also find the latest World Watch List, which ranks the fifty countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution.

Please pray for your brothers and sisters in persecution, and consider supporting Open Doors financially.

Blessings,

Al Janssen