

Thornbury Baptist Church  
Small Group Discussion Questions

**Talk Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Talk title:** Don't Be Afraid

**Passage:** Matthew 10:16-31

**Speaker:** Sally Heath

### Discussion Questions

Jesus sent out the 12 to proclaim the good news of God's kingdom in words and actions. In Matthew 10:16-31 he tells them not to worry and 3 times not to be afraid.

- Why do you think that there are so many instances in the Bible of God (sometimes via an angel) telling people not to be afraid?
- What things does Jesus suggest to the 12 they might face in the mission he's sending them on, which might cause them worry and fear?
- What opposition have you faced, do you face or do you fear facing if you tell others the good news about Jesus and God's kingdom?

Jesus says:

- Don't worry what to say when you are arrested – God's Spirit will give you the words (v19-20)
- Don't be afraid of those who oppose you – they don't get the last say (v26-28)
- Don't be afraid of those who can kill the body but not the soul (v28)
- Don't be afraid – God cares so much for you that he knows how many hairs are on your head and much more than he cares for almost worthless sparrows, who he knows when they die (v29-31)
- How can you apply these to your life when you face or fear facing opposition for following and telling others about Jesus? Are they helpful?
- The one 'be afraid' that Jesus mentions in this passage is in v28 – the 'one who can destroy both soul and body in hell' – generally taken to mean God. How might this encourage us to tell others about the good news of Jesus? How might you speak to a non-Christian friend who is facing death?
- Read v16 again. What do you understand by this verse? Can you think of examples of someone being shrewd and innocent at the same time? (possible suggestions: Jesus in John 8:3-11; Solomon in 1 Kings 3:16-27)
- Although we may face opposition for telling others about Jesus, we don't face the persecution that many of our fellow Christians do. Spend some time praying for them. Open Doors and Barnabas Aid give prayer points.

### Takeaway

What is the main thing each person is taking away from this discussion?

Spend time praying with one another in the light of your discussion.