



## **“Don’t Be Afraid”**

Children’s Sermon  
September 26, 2021

[Text: Jeremiah 1:8]

*Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you,  
declares the Lord.” (ESV)*

There once was a mouse who was afraid of cats, until he met a magician. The magician agreed to turn the mouse into a cat. That resolved his fear until he met a dog, so the magician changed him into a dog. The mouse-turned-cat-turned-dog was content until he met a lion. So, once again, the magician changed him into what he feared most. Now he was a deadly lion! But when the lion came complaining that he had met a hunter, the magician refused to help, saying, “I will turn you back into a mouse, for though you have the looks of a lion, you still have the heart of a mouse.”

Does this sound familiar? We can have the looks of a lion, but inside we can still have the heart of a mouse. What are you afraid of? Is anyone here afraid of snakes? How about a thunderstorm? I know some people are afraid of flying in planes. Others are afraid of lions and tigers and bears. Oh my! We are all afraid of something.

Jeremiah is a prophet in the Bible. And Jeremiah was afraid, too. Jeremiah was afraid to spread God’s Word. After all, when God called him, Jeremiah was only a boy, about thirteen years old. How can a thirteen-year-old spread God’s Word? That’s something adults do, not children. Right? Wrong! God tells Jeremiah, “Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you.” (Jeremiah 1:8, ESV) Then God says to the prophet, “Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.” (Jeremiah 1:9, ESV)

God calls all of us—young and old—to spread his Word. That’s what this worship service is all about; spreading God’s Word, especially to people who don’t have the Bible in their own language.

We can do that! Just like Jeremiah, we can spread God’s Word—God’s Word that points us to Jesus who always forgives us, always loves us, and always calms us when we are afraid. And, just like Jeremiah, we can hold onto this promise of Jesus, “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20, ESV)

Do you know what the most frequent command in the Bible turns



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out to be? What instruction, what order, does Jesus give again and again? What do you think? "Be good"? "Be holy"? "Don't sleep during the sermon"? No. The most frequent command in the Bible is, "Don't be afraid." Three-hundred and sixty-five times! One for each day of the year! Christ's death on a cross and his mighty resurrection from the dead takes away all our fear.

Let's share this good news with the world! Amen.

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