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PRAYER

God, we thank you that we have absolutely nothing to fear when you are with us as our guard and guide! In Jesus' name, Amen.

WARM UP

Have you ever wanted to do something that was way out of your comfort zone, but when you went to do it, you found such strong pressure to "chicken out" or retract from doing it? What was it? Did you end up going through with it?



WORD

³² But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³ sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. ³⁴ For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. ³⁵ Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. ³⁷ For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; ³⁸ but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." ³⁹ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

Hebrews 10:32-39 (ESV)

■ GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

- 1. On a scale of 1-10 (1 = terrible, 10 = greatest), how would you rate your ability to remember good things that have previously happened in your life?
- 2. Why is it important to remember the former days? What's at stake when we fail to remember our former days?
- 3. Verse 34 talks about having compassion towards others, even when bad things have happened to us. Do you have this kind of compassion? If not, how do you think you can develop this kind of compassion? If you do, how did you get it?
- 4. What does it look like to throw away your confidence in verse 35? Do you have the kind of confidence this passage is talking about?
- 5. Would you consider yourself one who may have "shrunk back" in your faith? If so, would you like to have the power of Jesus in your life that will ensure you will not shrink back? Would you like prayer for this, not just today, but on a regular basis with your Life Group leader/discipleship mentor?

▶ PRAYER LIST