

# Small Group Discussion Guide *for Leaders*

## Gathering Time

- Make sure newcomers are welcomed and engaged in conversation
- Offer a snack and drink if the setting is right (i.e. a home)
- Arrange seating so everyone in the group can see each other

## Getting Acquainted

- **Describe a frightening experience you've had in your life. What were you afraid of? Did you have courage to face your fear?**
- **What fears do you carry today?**
  - NOTE: these could be unwarranted like a fear of elevators, or more serious.

## Discussion Starter Video

- To view the video, go to [christchurchil.org/future-you-videos](http://christchurchil.org/future-you-videos). Choose the title, COURAGE. If you open the video in Vimeo, there is a download option to get the video onto your computer. Or you can just play it from the site without downloading.
- For the next six sessions, the videos are designed as discussion starters to be used at the beginning of the Bible Exploration.

## Bible Exploration

- **Are you familiar with the Old Testament account of Daniel in the lion's den? Share what details you remember about the story.**
  - NOTE: Give people opportunity to share what they know of the story. Then thumb or scroll through Daniel 6:1-28 hitting the highlights.
- **Mike Woodruff points out that Daniel navigated his high stress moments with courage. How did he do that? What clues do you see in the context of Daniel 6? What about the larger context of chapters 1-6?**

- **One reason Mike gives for Daniel’s courage is his perspective: he cultivated a big view of God and a small view of himself. What does it mean to view God as big and self as small?**
- **Where does this perspective show up in Daniel’s life? Where does it show up in your life?**
- **What areas of your life need a change of perspective in order for you to live courageously?**
- **Daniel 6:10 gives a window (no pun intended) into Daniel’s spiritual preparation for life? How are you doing in the spiritual habits of prayer and Bible study? Do you know how to have meaningful personal connection with God?**
  - NOTE. This is a good opportunity to talk about how to do personal Bible study and prayer with those for whom spiritual practices are a new concept.
- **How can a daily connection with God yield growing courage to face life’s challenges and an uncertain future?**

## Prayer

- Invite the group to participate in a time of “conversational” prayer. Each person may pray as often as he or she wants, but only 1-2 short sentences on one topic at a time. This lowers the barrier of participation for people unaccustomed to praying with others.

## Wrap-Up

- Be sure to end the formal conversation on time.
- Thank newcomers for joining you, and invite everyone to the next meeting.
- Encourage people to linger for a few minutes, and do your best to have a personal interaction with each individual before he or she leaves.