

# Fear Not

READ: JOSHUA 1:9; ISAIAH 41:10

The alarm shrieked through the school. Paxton could barely hear Ms. Sears telling the class to stay calm and gather behind her desk as she moved to turn out the lights and lock the classroom door.

“What’s going on?” asked Corbin, Paxton’s best friend. “Another school shooting?” Paxton’s heart pounded so hard in his chest he could hardly breathe.

Finally the alarm fell silent. Principal Little’s voice came over the loud speaker with the all clear. Ms. Sears turned the lights back on and Paxton returned to his desk, but he couldn’t concentrate the rest of the day.

That night, he picked at his dinner. Mom took off her gun and badge and sat down at the table to eat with him.

“Officer Dwiley told me there was a false alarm at the school today,” Mom said. “A man walked past the office without signing in. Everyone’s on high alert after what happened at the school in Stenson last week. I’m glad they’re being extra cautious, but it must have been scary for you. Paxton?” Mom frowned. “Are you feeling okay?”

Paxton slowly shook his head. “My stomach and head hurt all the time.”

Mom reached across the table to squeeze his hand. “A school shooting is a very scary thing, even for adults.”

“Easy for you to say,” Paxton muttered, pulling his hand away. “You carry a gun.”

Mom sighed. “Carrying a gun doesn’t make me less scared. While you were at school today I was praying for your safety and saying that verse I told you about.”

“God hasn’t given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind,” Paxton recited.

Mom smiled. “Fear is a natural response when something horrible like a school shooting happens. But we can’t let it overwhelm us. We have to choose to trust God to protect us and those we love. Will you say that verse at school tomorrow whenever your stomach or head start hurting again?”

“Okay,” Paxton said. “I’ll try.”

“And I’d like you to talk to the student counselor, too. It’s good to have an adult there at school who knows how you’re feeling.” ♥ CHRISTA C. HOGAN

## FEAR NOT— GOD IS WITH YOU

### KEY VERSE

FOR GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US A SPIRIT  
OF FEAR, BUT OF POWER AND OF LOVE  
AND OF A SOUND MIND.  
2 TIMOTHY 1:7

## MASS SHOOTINGS AT SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC PLACES HAPPEN TO

**REAL PEOPLE.** You may feel scared when you hear about them in the news or from friends. Maybe you even know someone who was involved in one. Know that God loves you and doesn’t want you to be afraid. Talk to an adult and ask them to pray with you, and trust God to be your protector.





## Journal It

**S**in makes our world a scary place sometimes. But Jesus conquered sin on the cross, and He's coming back again to make all things new! He is stronger than sin and evil and will always be with us. But we still face scary situations sometimes, and that's never easy.

What is something scary that you have seen lately?

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How did it make you feel? Circle what you felt (or are still feeling now). If you felt something different, write it in.

ANXIOUS   SAD   ANGRY   WORRIED   CONFUSED   OTHER FEELINGS: \_\_\_\_\_

What trusted adults can you talk with when you are afraid?

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Now let's look at God's Word, the best place to hear God speak, especially in times of trouble. Read Psalm 118:6 and John 16:33.

Use this space to talk to God about scary events. Tell Him about things that scare you and how they make you feel. Ask Him to help you trust and for His peace when you're afraid.

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**Ask an Adult:** What is something scary you have faced?

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How did you deal with it?

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What verses help you remember to trust God when you're afraid?

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