

## **OUTLINE What Was I Scared Of?**

**Introduction-** write down your fears

One definition of fear I found is “an unpleasant often strong emotion caused by anticipation or awareness of danger.”

Is everyone finished? I’m not going to collect these or ask you to share them now, but I will tell you there is a correct answer—a pale green pair of pants. I would accept just green pants also, for half credit.

### **What Was I scared of?**

“What Was I Scared Of” by Dr. Seuss begins with the rather braggadocio statement:

“Well. . . I was walking in the night

And I saw nothing scary.

For I have never been afraid

Of anything. Not very.

Then I was deep within the woods

When, suddenly, I spied them.

I saw a pair of pale green pants

With nobody inside them!

I wasn’t scared. But, yet, I stopped. . . . .”

And then, in typical Dr. Seuss fashion, the story goes off on a fantastic journey where the pair of pale green pants are seen everywhere! The anxiety grows and grows, until finally he touches the pale green pants, and. . . the pants begin to cry!

Our protagonist puts his arm around their waist and calms them down. And he ends by stating:

“And, now, we meet quite often,

Those empty pants and I,

And we never shake or tremble.

We both smile

And we say

‘Hi!’”

**Bible stories** (feel free to follow along and read for yourself): First, there's the story that Monica read from Numbers--

1. Numbers 13-14- summarize. Positive report/ scary report. People accept bad report/ rebel against God. He sends them to wilderness for 40 years
2. Mark 5
  - A. The Man with the Unclean Spirit
  - B. The Woman with Hemorrhages
  - C. The daughter of Jairus
3. Summary of Mark 5 stories

What do each of these stories have in common?

- Fear is present in each of these stories
  - Each one reached out to Jesus, in fact, they fell down before Him!
  - Jesus gave each what they needed
  - Each life was changed!
4. I'd like to go back to the first lesson that Monica read from 1 John 2:16-18- "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love."
    - A. Wesley's idea of Perfecting Grace
    - B. Jesus had perfect love- even in the Garden. It doesn't say you will not fear—fear is a human emotion. But perfect love CASTS OUT fear.

Not every situation has a happy ending, but Jesus said, "In this world you will have trials and tribulation, but be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world." He would know- Jesus overcome his own emotions and fears and went to the cross for you. He died for you, and then came back to life for you. And He has prepared a place in eternity just for you!

## **Conclusion**

Now I would like you to think about the fears you wrote down, or that you know are in your heart. I think of some of the situations people I know have been in- paralyzed; in a coma; a brain tumor where it should not be- and I think of the strength, and courage, and faith, and the positive attitudes of people, such great witness to the power and love of God. Good things can happen even in the midst of our struggles. Good things can happen on the other side when we face our fears. Look at the character in What Was I Scared Of? He became friends with the pale green pants. The man with the unclean spirit was restored to his right mind; the woman was cured of her hemorrhages; the daughter was not dead but only sleeping.

Whatever your fears, whatever your anxiety, there is a way through it. Jesus will be with you. Now, these days we can't reach out to Jesus in the flesh like the people in Mark 5. But we can be Jesus. You can be Jesus to someone. And someone can be Jesus to you. We all need each other. You do not ever need to walk alone. . .

End with— feel free to sing along if you would. . .

“When you walk through a storm,  
Hold your head up high,  
And don't be afraid of the dark.  
At the end of a storm  
There's a golden sky  
And the sweet silver song of a lark.  
Walk on through the wind  
Walk on through the rain  
Though your dreams be tossed and blown  
Walk on, walk on  
With hope in your heart  
And you'll never walk alone,  
You'll never walk alone.”

It is time for our Offering. This is our opportunity to give something back to God, who has given us everything; especially the greatest gift of all- the gift of spending eternity in God's presence.