

***Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times***  
**Week 3: Failure, Disappointing Others, Meaninglessness and Loneliness**  
Small Group Discussion Questions

Welcome and opening prayer: *Lord, you speak throughout the cosmos and in the depths of our being. You know the desperate ways we long to be connected and the pattern of distraction that fills our days. Hear the deeper desires of our hearts as we gather today. Be among us and between us as we search for each other and for you. Amen.*

1. In this section of the reading, Adam Hamilton explores four types of fears: fear of failing, fear of disappointing others, fear of meaningless, and loneliness. Which of these do you think are most prevalent in our society today, and why?
2. Hamilton talks about *Harry Potter* author J.K. Rowling, who overcame her fear of failure by recognizing that “it is impossible to live without failing at something,” and then risked failure to achieve her goals. Do you agree with her statement? How has that been true in your life?
3. In chapter 10, Hamilton discusses on-line interactions (such as social media) that opens us to criticism and rejection. If you are on social media, how have you been affirmed by your on line interactions? How have you been hurt by something posted on-line? How about your children and/or grandchildren?
4. Some of us struggle with the fear of disappointing others that we become people-pleasers, even approval addicts. How do we free ourselves from the underlying fear of rejection?
5. How is human connection under stress in America? How does loneliness manifest itself in our church, or in your own life?
6. In Scott’s sermon today, he talked about loving God and loving neighbor as the spiritual antidote to loneliness. How have following these two commandments helped you or others you know deal with loneliness?
7. Name one thing you can do in the coming week to help a lonely person. Name something our church can do to address loneliness in our community.