

Five Stones

Fear Not

The fear of the Lord frees us from fear (Psalm 115:11). The fear of the Lord is the stone that takes down the giant of fear in our lives and empowers our destiny. To fear the Lord means we know deep within that God is able to handle things. It means we are in utter awe and amazement of Him, that we are intellectually, emotionally, spiritually, and physically overwhelmed by His grandeur and majesty. The fear the Lord comes when we behold and meditate on the vastness, intricacies, and complexities of creation. It comes when we look at all the prophecies of Jesus and the statistical probabilities of all of them being fulfilled in Him. And it comes when we see and embrace all that Jesus accomplished for us on the cross. The truth is that we are going to fear something. What we truly fear – whether it is the Lord or the *what if's* of our circumstances – will determine the direction of our life.

GET THINGS STARTED

What are your known phobias (e.g. spiders, snakes, heights, needles, etc.), or what is simply creepy to you or makes you extremely uncomfortable? What is the potential outcome of that thing that produces fear or anxiety in you? Do you agree with the idea that we all are going to fear something, and that what we fear determines the direction of our life? Why or why not?

WATCH THE GROUP VIDEO FOR WEEK 2

GO DEEPER

1. What stood out or resonated with you from the video this week?
2. Why would Jesus, in Luke 12:4-7, give the instruction to both fear God (v. 5) and then to not be afraid (v. 7) in the same passage or teaching? What point is Jesus making, and why is it significant?
3. In his message, Pastor David suggests that Psalm 23 reveals both David's fear and love of God. How can we fear and love God at the same time, and what does that look like?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Beyond phobias (that we at times make light of), what fear right now is consuming your thoughts and weighing heavily on your heart? How is that fear affecting you?
2. How would you rate your fear of the Lord? What are some initial steps you could take to begin to foster a greater measure of fear in the Lord?
3. The fear of the Lord empowers our destiny. What part of your destiny (and the destiny of others) would you like to see empowered?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group to purposefully pray for a greater fear of the Lord. Ask Him to increase your awe and amazement in Him and in His creation. Ask Him to give you spiritual eyes to see the wonder of all that Jesus accomplished through His death and resurrection.

BLESS

Who around you (a neighbor, coworker, friend, family member, etc.) is wrestling with fear? How might you create a safe space to purposefully listen to all they are experiencing and for them to verbally process their situation (without you offering solutions or trying to fix them or the situation)?