

Fearless

The Foundation of All Fear

God wants us to live a life with less fear and anxiety (Psalm 23:1-6). In scripture God gives one command more than any other (365 times): *do not fear*. And God only commands what He is willing to empower to be reality. If we know and follow Jesus as our Good Shepherd, then we have nothing to fear (John 10:11-13). What Jesus accomplished for us on the cross as our Good Shepherd demonstrates His unfathomable love for us and shows how valuable we are in His eyes.

GETTING STARTED

What do you think life would look like without fear? How challenging of a question is that for you, and how much of your daily life might be influenced or controlled by fear? When can fear be healthy or necessary?

Imagine your life was wholly untouched by angst. What if faith, not fear, was your default reaction to threats? If you could hover a fear magnet over your heart and extract every last shaving of dread, insecurity, and doubt, what would remain? Envision a day, just one day, absent the dread of failure, rejection, and calamity. Can you imagine a life with no fear? – Max Lucado

GO DEEPER

1. From Psalm 23:1-6, what does it mean for God to be our shepherd, and what are the benefits?
2. How are shepherds typically perceived today? From King David's experience in 1 Samuel 17:34-36, what was it really like to be a shepherd, and how should this inform our understanding of Psalm 23:1?
3. Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd in John 10:11-13. What is the difference between a good shepherd and a hired hand in these verses, and why is that significant for us?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. If God is our shepherd, then we are His sheep. But we sometimes see ourselves as cheap, expendable sheep. To what degree do you fear that you are expendable in God's eyes? How much does Isaiah 53:6-7 and what Jesus accomplished on the cross speak to your value?
2. How closely are you following Jesus as your Good Shepherd? What needs to change in your heart and choices to be more of His follower (and not just a believer)?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Watch this video – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e45dVgWgV64>. Then as a group, ask the Good Shepherd to strengthen the sound of His voice in each person. Commit as a group to learning, hearing, and obeying the voice of the Good Shepherd. Also spend time as a group giving thanks to God and Jesus for what He accomplished on the cross. Thank Him for being your Good Shepherd!