

Fear Not

Afraid of What People Think About Me

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after [Joseph] had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:18-21 NIV

Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant. Galatians 1:10 NLT

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Psalm 119:105 NIV

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. Matthew 1:24 NIV

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What's one of your favorite Christmas traditions?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why?
- Pastor Craig said: "Obsessing about what people think about you is the quickest way to forget what God thinks about you." What do you think this means?
- Read **Galatians 1:10**. What are some signs that someone cares more about God's approval than people's approval?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Have you ever cared too much about what others think of you? How did that experience compare with times your mindset was healthier?
- What are some ways we can consistently remind ourselves of God's opinion of us?
- Do you feel God calling you to do something, but worry about what others might think? If so, how can this group encourage and support your bold step of faith?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Dear God, You know me better than anyone, and You love me. Please remind me of Your love when I feel discouraged or alone. Help me to follow You with boldness, and give me confidence to make choices that honor You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- **When you feel afraid, remember God is with you. Ask Him for comfort and greater trust.**
- Start the *Overcomer: Finding Strength in Hard Seasons* Bible Plan using Plans with Friends: www.go2.lc/fearnot
- Consider how you could love others by serving on the weekend or with a Local Mission Partner.