



IMPACT COMMUNITIES
real life. real impact.

Sequoia Impact Communities are a place to experience real life & real impact.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Fear vs. Hope

#4 of 10— July 29, 2018

- 1) Take some time to discuss how your Impact Community has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together as **family**, as **servants**, and **on mission**.
- 2) Re-read Psalm 27 together. What resonates the most with you about this Psalm?
- 3) Can you remember a moment in your childhood where you experienced fear? How did this impact you?
- 4) What would you say is *currently* your greatest fear? How long have you had it?
- 5) First discuss: Are all fears bad? Then, read Proverbs 1:7 and Proverbs 9:10. What does it mean to “fear” the Lord?
- 6) Re-read Hebrews 4:12. The Bible is our greatest source of truth, yet many of us struggle to read or study it. What are some of the things that you struggle with about reading the Bible? What are some of the things you have found helpful in spending time in God’s Word?
- 7) Fear often causes us to turn to “*false hope*,” which can be anything that replaces Jesus Christ as our source of hope. What are some of the things you feel have become a false hope in your life? What do you think caused you to turn to that false hope in the first place?
- 8) Read verse 13 from Psalm 27 again. While it is a beautiful expression of hope, this verse can cause tension for Christians who have been experiencing fear and pain for a long time. Is it possible to have true hope that things will change in the future while having peace that they may never change at the same time? Discuss.
- 9) Re-read verse 14. People often see waiting as a form of inaction or indecision, yet David tells us that waiting upon the Lord is something that requires both bravery and courage. Discuss David’s requirements for waiting on the Lord. Are there things in your life that you are “waiting on the Lord” to answer? Share as an IC and pray for one another.



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SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Fear vs. Hope

Aaron Bown
July 29, 2018



Psalm 27

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation— so why should I be afraid?

The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?

² When evil people come to devour me, when my enemies and foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.

³ Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident.

⁴ The one thing I ask of the Lord— the thing I seek most— is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in his Temple.

⁵ For he will conceal me there when troubles come; he will hide me in his sanctuary.

He will place me out of reach on a high rock.

⁶ Then I will hold my head high above my enemies who surround me.

At his sanctuary I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy, singing and praising the Lord with music.

⁷ Hear me as I pray, O Lord. Be merciful and answer me!

⁸ My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me."

And my heart responds, "Lord, I am coming."

⁹ Do not turn your back on me. Do not reject your servant in anger.

You have always been my helper.

Don't leave me now; don't abandon me, O God of my salvation!

¹⁰ Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close.

¹¹ Teach me how to live, O Lord. Lead me along the right path, for my enemies are waiting for me. ¹² Do not let me fall into their hands.

For they accuse me of things I've never done; with every breath they threaten me with violence.

¹³ Yet I am confident I will see the Lord's goodness while I am here in the land of the living.

¹⁴ Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous.

Yes, wait patiently for the Lord.

🎧 **What is Fear?** The anticipation of danger, evil or pain.

🎧 **Fear is Normal** (cf. Matthew 26:38, Luke 22:44)

🎧 **Our first response to fear: Declaring God's Truth** (v. 1-6)

- **What is Truth? God's Word**

"For the Word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires." (Hebrews 4:12)

🎧 **The greatest risk in fighting fear is false hope**

- False hope is anything that replaces Jesus Christ as our source of hope

🎧 **David gets "real" about his feelings** (v. 7-10)

"Hear me as I pray, O Lord. Be merciful and answer me!" (v 7)

"Do not turn your back on me. Do not reject your servant in anger. You have always been my helper. Don't leave me know; don't abandon me. O God of my salvation." (v9)

"Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close." (v10)

Big Idea: God uses fear to lead us to a place of true, lasting hope in Jesus Christ. Embrace fear. He's got this.

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation (NLT).