



TITLE: Driven by Fear?

ICE BREAKER: What are you most afraid of?

BIG IDEA: FEAR & OBEY GOD - It's that simple

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14 Not only was the Teacher wise, but he also imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs. 10 The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true. 11 The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one shepherd. 12 Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them. Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body. 13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

OPENING THOUGHTS: Proverbs 1:7 says, The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. Wise counsel, unlimited resources, relational and emotional support, and even knowledge itself are of no help to a person who does not fear God. To fear God is to live with a constant deep belief that God sees and knows all, and that you will give an account to him. A belief that the Gospel is your only way to a reconciled relationship with your creator. Submitting to our Lord and Savior Jesus, and allowing him to dwell in us with the Holy Spirit. Our lives are driven by fear. The question is not if we will fear, but who we will fear!!! To fear the Lord is to consider God above everything and everyone. It's the desire to do what is right in God's eyes, even if it means the outcome seems not to be in our favor.

MAIN POINTS:

- Not People, Places, or Things!
- People that are driven by fear
- People that are submitted to the Fear of the Lord

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In your words what does it mean to fear God?
2. Can you think of a story from the Bible where someone chose to fear God, instead of People, Places, or Things?
3. What fears in your life drive your decision making? What has been a result of giving in to that fear?
4. Is what people want you to do more important than what God asks of you?
5. Is there any area of your life where you are currently not obeying God?

BIBLE FURTHER STUDY:

Scriptures on the Fear of God to keep in your heart and mind: Proverbs 8:13 To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. Job 28:28 And he said to the human race, "The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding." Matthew 10:28 And he said to the human race, "The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding." Psalm 33:8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him. Luke 1:50 Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him. Proverbs 3:7 Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him. Psalm 111:10 Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him. 2 Corinthians 7:1 Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him.

CHALLENGE: WHO DO YOU FEAR? Who does your heart require the approval of? Whose praise means the world to you? Whose criticism or rejection feels like it would destroy you? Is there anyone that you are not yourself around? Are you trying to be who they want you to be, instead of who God made you to be? Who are you willing to sin for?

CLOSING PRAYER:

God, we want to fear you and you alone. Help us by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit not seek the approval of people. Not to live for the praise of others, but rather living to praise and worship you! May we identify with the rejection of Christ on the Cross as our salvation, allowing us not to carry the burden of the Criticism and Rejection that we experience in this life. Help us to be our true selves, your sons and daughters. We reject sin, and proclaim that it has no hold over our Hearts, Minds, Hands, and Feet. Jesus may we die to ourselves, and live fully and abundantly in you. AMEN.