

Discussion Questions

INTRODUCTION

In a culture that has lost its understanding of God's holiness, what if fearing Him actually leads us closer to His blessings?

GETTING STARTED

1. Share about an experience where you were deeply afraid. What were the circumstances? Who else was involved?

BIBLE IDEA

2. Read Acts 5:1-11. What sin did Ananias commit to warrant God's punishment? Does this seem harsh to you? Why or why not? What reaction did the early Christian community have to the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira? Talk about what it means "to fear the Lord."
3. Read Acts 5:12-16. What happened because of the early church's fear of God? Discuss the correlation between fearing God and receiving His blessing.
4. Read Psalms 103:13-18. What promises are given to those who fear the Lord? How do these promises bring clarity to the importance of fearing the Lord?
5. Read Proverbs 1:7 & 9:10-12. What is the first step to gaining wisdom? What happens to those who do not fear the Lord?
6. Read Psalms 31:19-21. Discuss God's goodness as it relates to the fear of the Lord. What does it look like for you to be in the midst of God's goodness? Give an example of how you've recently experienced the goodness of the Lord.

NEXT STEPS

7. From Sean's sermon: *"The biblical idea of the fear of the Lord is a clear understanding that God is different—He has no beginning or end, nor does He owe His existence to any creator. He is THE Creator and is more powerful and awesome than anyone, or anything, in the world."* **What one step will you take this week to increase your acceptance of God's influence over you?**