

FEARless

Life Group Study Guide

Why Are We Afraid?

Fear of What People Think About Me

Fear of Not Mattering

Fear of Being Real

Fear of Disappointing God

Fear of Dying/Life's Final Moments

Fear of Global Calamity

Fear of Satan

Fear of Total Commitment

PURPOSE CHURCH



Name: _____

Fearless Life Group Study Guide
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Fearless: Imagine Your Life Without Fear
2009 by Max Lucado
Published by Thomas Nelson, Inc.
Nashville, Tennessee

Fearless Small Group Discussion Guide
2009 by Max Lucado
Published by Thomas Nelson, Inc.
Nashville, Tennessee

Some Material for week 8 adapted from:

Rooted
2011 by Kenton Beshore
Published by Mariners Church
Irvine California

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version
Unless otherwise stated
2011 published by Zondervan



FEARless

HOW THIS STUDY WORKS

Can you imagine your life without fear? What if faith, not fear, was your default reaction to threats? Imagine hovering a fear magnet over your heart and extracting every last shaving of dread, insecurity, and doubt. This series has been designed to help you and your group to grow together to trust more and fear less!

As with any study, what you and your group get out of it will be determined by how much you put into it. Each week you will be asked to do some preparatory work at home before you meet together as a group. **There are two main resources for this study:**

FEARless book- by Max Lucado

During our 10-week study we will be focusing on six of the chapters from FEARLESS by best selling author Max Lucado. You will be instructed which chapters to read for which weeks. In addition to the six chapters there are other great chapters you can read on fears that we will not get to cover in this study. Check with your group leader or our Rooted Life Group office (909-629-5277x3031) to obtain a copy of the book at a discount price. If you prefer, you can purchase the ebook version. (On itunes and kindle)

FEARless Sermon Series

For this series we will also be focusing on five of the sermons from the Spring 2016 Fearless series at Purpose Church. The sermon outlines are provided in this book. You can access video or audio versions of the sermons from <http://purposechurch.com/fearless-series/> In addition to these five sermons there were four other great messages in the series that were not able to be included in the study.

Each week you will be asked to spend some time preparing at home before you meet together as a group. By reading the chapter from the book or listening to the sermon that corresponds with the week's study, you will gain a better understanding of the material and will be able to contribute more to your group discussion. This preparation will not take more than an hour a week but will make a big difference in the impact of the study on your life and your group.

Your Group Time

Your group needs you! Make it a priority in your schedule to participate in each session. Approach your group discussion time with a mindset of openness and vulnerability. If you hold back in the discussions, refusing to let your real self be known, your group will suffer. God made you the way you are for a reason, and he put you with this specific group for a reason. Open up, share your story, and listen with acceptance and honesty as others share. Strive to do your part to make your small group a safe place to share and grow together in God's love and truth.

STUDY SCHEDULE

Week 1	Why are we afraid? (FEARLESS Chapter 1)
Week 2	Fear of What People Think About Me (Glenn Gunderson sermon April 3, 2016)
Week 3	Fear of not mattering (FEARLESS Chapter 2)
Week 4	Fear of Being Real (Eric Holmstrom sermon April 10, 2016)
Week 5	Fear of Disappointing God (FEARLESS Chapter 3)
Week 6	Fear of Dying (Glenn Gunderson sermon April 17, 2016) Life's final moments (FEARLESS Chapter 10)
Week 7	Fear of Global Calamity (FEARLESS Chapter 13)
Week 8	Fear of Satan (Glenn Gunderson April 24, 2016)
Week 9	Fear of Total Commitment (Glenn Gunderson sermon May 29, 2016) God Getting Out of My Box (FEARLESS Chapter 14)
Week 10	Closing Session & Series Reflection

In Preparation for Next Week - Week 1: Why Are We Afraid

Fearless Book

Read chapter 1 and highlight ways that God is speaking to you about your fears:

Scripture Readings & Reflection:

Read Matthew 8:23-27

-What "storms" and fears are you facing right now?

-What connection does Jesus make between fear and faith in verse 26?

Read John 16:33

-What promise does Jesus give here about living in this world?

-What does Jesus offer his followers? On what is this offer based?

Read 2 Timothy 1:7

-What kind of spirit has God not given to his children? What does this imply about the origin of most of our fear?

-What kind of spirit has God given to his children? What difference should this make to us when fear strikes?

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Week 1 Why Are We Afraid?

LEAN IN

Option 1 – What was your biggest fear when you were growing up?

Option 2 – What is something that causes your heartbeat to race, your palms to sweat, and your heart to fear?

BIBLE DISCUSSION:

LOOK DOWN Read the passage for its original meaning

LOOK OUT Dig into the passage for its meaning in today's world

LOOK IN Apply the meaning of the passage to our lives

LIVE IT OUT What if we held tightly to the truth of this passage and lived it out completely? How would our lives be different? Our church? Our communities? Our world?

Read Matthew 8:23-27

Matthew remembered the pounding tempest and bouncing boat and was careful in his terminology when he wrote his gospel. The storm was a seismos—"a trembling eruption of sea and sky." This word is only used two other times—at Jesus' death and at His resurrection. In these moments of seismos God reveals something about his character to our fearful souls.

-What do you think is the significance of Matthew's use of the word 'seismos' in these three instances?

-Describe a time when your life was in chaos, but you could clearly see that Jesus was unstirred by the storm.

-Have you ever felt that Jesus was sleeping through the storms in your life? How did you respond? (Anger? Impatience? Frustration? Hurt???)

-Does it bring you comfort to know that this reaction is intentional on Jesus' part, not accidental or ignorant? If not, how does it make you feel?

-What connection does Jesus make between fear and faith in verse 26?

Read John 16:33

-What promise does Jesus give here about living in this world?

-What does Jesus offer his followers? On what is this offer based?

-To what extent is it okay to pay attention to concerns of safety? Describe the point at which sensible caution becomes worship of a risk-free life.

Read 2 Timothy 1:7

-What kind of spirit has God not given to his children? What does this imply about the origin of most of our fear?

-What kind of spirit has God given to his children? What difference should this make to us when fear strikes?

LOOK IN

-Think about this past week? What fears have popped up in your life? What caused them? What did you do with them?

LIVE IT OUT

-What is one way you can live out John 16:33 or 2 Timothy 1:7 in the face of your fears?

WRAP UP

Over the course of the next week, remind yourself of God's track record in your life. Journal about the times He has calmed the storms in your life. When you find yourself struggling against fear, look at that list and read Luke 12:32 and remind yourself that God is present, powerful and able to bring you through whatever storms you face.

In Preparation for Next Week - Week 2: Fear of What People Think About Me

THE SERMON:

Watch the video or listen to the podcast of Pastor Glenn's April 3, 2016 message—*Fear of What People Think About Me*.

<http://http://purposechurch.com/fearless-series/>

SCRIPTURE READINGS & REFLECTION:

Read the following passages and look for insights and applications in regards to "Fear of What People Think About Me"

- Read Proverbs 29:25**
- Read John 5:44**
- Galatians 1:10**
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

READING IN FEARLESS MAX BOOK:

Read chapter 1 if you have not finished reading it yet

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April 3, 2016

Pastor Glenn Gunderson

“FEAR OF WHAT PEOPLE THINK ABOUT ME”

Proverbs 22:1

A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

1 Timothy 3:7

“(A pastor) must also have a good reputation with outsiders ...”

“I don’t watch any movie I’m in. It’s horrifying. I’ll just focus on something stupid like, ‘I hate my laugh. Why did I smile?!’ Sometimes I look at myself and think, ‘Dude, I have the biggest, goofiest smile on earth.’”

Only in very dark moments, moments of pure self-loathing, do I type my name into Google. You never read anything positive; you always go straight to where they say something nasty about you. You’re fat, you’re ugly, you’re tired, you’re worthless, you don’t have a career anymore. It’s just an affirmation of every horrible feeling about yourself.”

Reese Witherspoon

The Fear of Other People Is a Trap


Proverbs 29:25

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.

TRAP ONE: LIVING A _____ LIFE

Galatians 2:11-12

When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.

To follow along on your smartphone scan this QR code or open the YouVersion app. Click  at top > LIVE > search.



TRAP TWO: _____ GOD

1 Samuel 15:24

Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I violated the Lord’s command and your instructions. I was afraid of the men and so I gave in to them.”

Acts 5:29

Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings!

TRAP THREE: _____ CHRISTIANITY

John 12:42-43

Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved human praise more than praise from God.

TRAP FOUR: BEING _____ BY PEOPLE

Galatians 1:10

Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Four Ways to be Free from the Fear of Other People

Proverbs 29:25

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.

“Fear reveals what you value the most. Fear reveals where you trust God the least. Fear is not the opposite of faith. Fear is placing your faith in the wrong things.”
Craig Groeschel

Isaiah 2:22

Stop trusting in mere humans, who have but a breath in their nostrils. Why hold them in esteem?

2ND TRUST THAT GOD IS STRONGER THAN ANY

Psalms 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

Isaiah 51:12-13

“I, even I, am he who comforts you. Who are you that you fear mere mortals, human beings who are but grass,¹³ that you forget the Lord your Maker, who stretches out the heavens and who lays the foundations of the earth ...

Isaiah 40:12

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?

Psalms 147:4

He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

Isaiah 40:15

Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.

3RD TRUST WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT YOU MORE THAN WHAT _____ SAY.

“Becoming obsessed with what people think about you is the quickest way to forget what God thinks about you.... I am not who I think I am. I am not who you think I am. I am who I think you think I am. Vs. I am not who I think I am. I am not who you think I am. I am who God says I am.”
Craig Groeschel

In Christ I am Accepted

I AM GOD'S CHILD. (John 1:12)

I AM GOD'S FRIEND. (John 15:15)

I HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED. (Romans 5:1)

I BELONG TO GOD. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

I AM A MEMBER OF CHRIST'S BODY/CHURCH. (1 Corinthians 12:27)

I AM A SAINT. (Ephesians 1:1)

I HAVE BEEN ADOPTED AS GOD'S CHILD. (Ephesians 1:5)

I HAVE ACCESS TO GOD. (Ephesians 2:18)

I HAVE HAD MY SINS FORGIVEN. (Colossians 1:14)

In Christ I am Secure

I AM FREE FROM CONDEMNATION. (Romans 8:1-2)

I KNOW ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD.

(Romans 8:28)

I AM FREE FROM ALL CHARGES AGAINST ME.

(Romans 8:31-34)

I CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM GOD'S LOVE.

(Romans 8:35-39)

I HAVE BEEN SEALED BY GOD. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)

I AM HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD. (Colossians 3:3)

GOD WILL FINISH HIS WORK IN ME. (Philippians 3:20)

I HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN A SPIRIT OF FEAR BUT OF POWER.

(2 Timothy 1:7)

I WILL FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED.

(Hebrews 4:16)

I AM BORN OF GOD AND THE EVIL ONE CANNOT TOUCH

ME. (1 John 5:18)

In Christ I am Significant

I AM THE SALT AND LIGHT OF THE EARTH (Matthew 5:13-14)

I AM A CHANNEL FOR GOD'S POWER (John 15:1, 5)

I HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO BEAR FRUIT (John 15:16)

I AM A PERSONAL WITNESS OF CHRIST (Acts 1:8)

I AM GOD'S TEMPLE (1 Corinthians 3:16)

I AM GOD'S COWORKER (1 Corinthians 3:9)

I AM SEATED WITH CHRIST IN THE HEAVENLY REALM

(Ephesians 2:6)

I AM GOD'S WORKMANSHIP (Ephesians 2:10)

I MAY APPROACH GOD WITH CONFIDENCE (Ephesians 3:12)

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO

STRENGTHENS ME (Philippians 4:13)

DANE AAKER

“I am ... duly grateful as I trust, to Almighty God, for having directed my countrymen to a right conclusion.”
Abraham Lincoln

4TH TRUST THAT GOD WILL NEVER _____ YOU, EVEN IF _____ DO.

Hebrews 13:5-6

God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

⁶ So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”

Psalms 27:1, 13, 14

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

¹³ I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Fill in the Blanks: double, Disobeying, Secret, controlled, Trusting, human enemy, people, reject, people

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Week 2 Fear of What People Think About Me

LEAN IN

Option 1 – When you were in High School how would others have described you? Popular? Nerd? Jock? Book worm? Life of the party? Shy? Trouble maker?

Option 2 – Describe one of your most embarrassing moments.

FEARLESS SERMON

This week's session is based on Pastor Glenn's April 3, 2016 message "*Fear Of What People Think About Me*".

What was one thing from the message that especially spoke to you?

BIBLE DISCUSSION:

LOOK DOWN Read the passage for it's original meaning

LOOK OUT Dig into the passage for it's meaning in today's world

LOOK IN Apply the meaning of the passage to our lives

LIVE IT OUT What if we held tightly to the truth of this passage and lived it out completely? How would our lives be different? Our church? Our communities? Our world?

Read Proverbs 29:25

-What ways do you see the fear of what other people think being a trap or snare in the lives of people around you?

-What area(s) of your life does the fear of what people think tend to pop up the most? Appearance? Work? Achievement? Family relationships? Church?

Read the quote from Craig Groeschel (from sermon outline)

Fear reveals what you value most. Fear reveals where you trust God the least. Fear is not the opposite of faith. Fear is placing your faith in the wrong things.

Respond to this quote and how you see it's truth in your life and the lives of others around you.

Read John 5:44

-In your daily life, how much of your thought life is consumed with what others think about you? What God thinks about you?

Galatians 1:10

-How does trying to win the approval of people, hinder you from being a servant of Christ?

Romans 12:1-2

-What does this passage tell us about how to free ourselves from the trap of living in fear of what others think about us? What do we need to stop doing? What things are we to do?

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

-How would your life be different if you truly lived out verses 16-17 in your daily life?

-As an ambassador of Christ how can you impact the lives of others 18-21?

Read Craig Groeschel's quote (from Sermon Outline)

Becoming obsessed with what people think about you is the quickest way to forget what God thinks about you... I am not who I think I am. I am not who you think I am. I am who I think you think I am. Vs. I am not who I think I am. I am not who you think I am. I am who God says I am.

In Preparation for Next Week - Week 3: Fear of Not Mattering

FEARLESS book — *Read chapter 2*

SCRIPTURE READINGS & REFLECTION:

Read the following passages and look for insights and applications in regards to your value in God's eyes:

Psalms 139:14-15

Psalms 139:18

Ephesians 2:10

Matthew 10:29-31

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Week 3 Fear of Not Mattering

LEAN IN

Option 1 When do you feel most alone?

Option 2 – Describe something you once valued very highly (perhaps in teen or young adult years) that you laugh about now because of its insignificance in your life?

Option 3 – Tell us about a time when someone made you feel as though you were significant to them.

BIBLE DISCUSSION:

LOOK DOWN Read the passage for it's original meaning

LOOK OUT Dig into the passage for it's meaning in today's world

LOOK IN Apply the meaning of the passage to our lives

LIVE IT OUT What if we held tightly to the truth of this passage and lived it out completely? How would our lives be different? Our church? Our communities? Our world?

Read Luke 12:4-7

-Of whom are we not to be afraid? Why not?

-Who are we to fear? Why? What kind of fear is meant?

-What reason does Jesus give for not succumbing to fear?

-Describe a time when you felt like a "5th Sparrow", worthless, insignificant, no value?

-Share about someone you know that has been hurt or made to feel worthless by you or someone else (either intentionally or unintentionally)?

Read Matthew 10:29-31

-What percentage of the time do you spend thinking about what God says about your value compared to thinking about whether you matter to other people? 25/75? 60/40? 10/90?

-What are the things you tend to do to make yourself feel important?

What do each of these verses teach us about our true value and significance?

-Psalm 139:14-15

-Psalm 139:17-18

-Ephesians 2:10

- Where do you draw the line between godly humility and viewing yourself as valueless?
- How do each of these attitudes impact your relationship with God? With others?

From Chapter 2 of Fearless, read the letter on pages 26-27 about the movie Hook.

- Which relationships, jobs, journeys, or heartbreaks have taken some of the sparkle from your eyes?
- What would it take to have that sparkle restored?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11

- Describe a time when someone encouraged you and helped you to see yourself the way God sees you? How did that make you feel?
- Who is someone in your life who needs to be encouraged this week? How could you encourage them and remind them of their worth, value and significance?

In Preparation for Next Week - Week 4: Fear of Being Real

THE SERMON:

- Watch the video or listen to the podcast of Eric Holmstrom's April 10, 2016 message—
Fear of Being Real—<http://purposechurch.com/fearless-series/>

SCRIPTURE READINGS & REFLECTION:

- Read 2 Corinthians 11:21-12:10*

Reflect on what the Apostle Paul expresses about himself and what we can learn about the Fear of Being Real from this passage.

Take some time to identify where fear pops up in your life in regards to

- Being Real with God*
- Being Real with Family*
- Being Real at Work or School*
- Being Real with a People at Church*

READING IN FEARLESS BOOK:

Week 4 is not based on a chapter of the book

FEARless

April 10, 2016

Pastor Eric Holmstrom

“FEAR OF BEING REAL”

2 Corinthians 11:21-12:10


To my shame I admit that we were too weak for that!

Whatever anyone else dares to boast about—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast about. ²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham’s descendants? So am I. ²³ Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. ²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶ I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. ²⁷ I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. ²⁸ Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

³⁰ If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying. ³² In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me. ³³ But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands.

^{12:1} I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. ² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. ³ And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows—⁴ was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. ⁵ I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. ⁶ Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, ⁷ or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in

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Week 4 Fear of Being Real

LEAN IN

- Option 1 – What are some boasts you remember hearing or making when you were in school?
- Option 2 – What is a costume, disguise or mask that you most enjoyed wearing?
- Option 3 – Describe a time in your life when you felt particularly weak physically, emotionally, or spiritually.

FEARLESS SERMON

This week's session is based on *Eric Holmstrom's April 10, 2016 message—Fear of Being Real.*

What was one thing from the message that especially spoke to you?

BIBLE DISCUSSION:

LOOK DOWN Read the passage for it's original meaning

LOOK OUT Dig into the passage for it's meaning in today's world

LOOK IN Apply the meaning of the passage to our lives

LIVE IT OUT What if we held tightly to the truth of this passage and lived it out completely? How would our lives be different? Our church? Our communities? Our world?

Read 2 Corinthians 11:13-29

-What are the words Paul uses in verses 13-15 to describe how real or authentic these false apostles were?

-With whom are you most tempted to "masquerade" and keep the real you hidden? Extended family? Work/school? Friends? Acquaintances? Neighbors? Church? Groups or associations? Other?

-What does Paul boast about in verses 16-29? How does this contrast with the "boasting of the way of the world" (v. 18)?

Read 2 Corinthians 11:30-12:10

-What does Paul say he would boast about in 11:30?

-How does he expand on this in 12:7-10?

-How did Paul respond to his "thorn"? (vs. 7-8) How did God respond? (v. 9) How did that affect Paul?

-What "thorns" (physical, circumstances, emotional, relational, etc.) have you pleaded with God to take away from you? What happened and how did it affect you?

Being Real With God

Read Psalm 38

- Identify the various real/raw emotions and questions that David expresses in this prayer?
- How “real” is your prayer and communication with God compared with this?

Read Hebrews 4:12-16

- What do we learn about being real with God from these verses?

Being Real with Family & Being Real at Work

- Which of these areas are you feeling led to be more real and authentic?
- What would it look like for you to take a step to do that in the coming week?

Real with the people of the Church

Romans 12:15-16

- Do you find it easier for you to ask this group to rejoice with you (celebrate a victory or success) or mourn with you (be with you in your sorrow)?
- Which is easier for you to respond to another group member’s need for rejoicing or mourning?

Read James 5:16

- How free did you feel to confess your sin and failures when you first started in this group? Do you feel more or less free to share in that way now? Why?

-After this discussion, what is one way you could be more real with this group?

In Preparation for Next Week - Week 5: Fear of Disappointing God

FEARLESS book—*Read chapter 3*

SCRIPTURE READINGS & REFLECTION:

Read the following scripture accounts of people who disappointed God. As you read their stories what hope do you gain for the times when you disappoint God?

- Peter—Mark 14:27-31**
- David—2 Samuel 11**
- The Samaritan Woman—John 4:1-42**

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Week 5 Fear of Disappointing God

LEAN IN

Option 1 – As a child, how much were you motivated by the fear of disappointing your parents?

Option 2 – Describe a time when you were impacted by a person extending forgiveness to you.

Option 3 – Describe one of your most embarrassing moments (if you didn't use this one on week 3)

Discussion Starter from Fearless Book pages 32-33

-Have someone read out loud to the group the story of Noble Doss on page 32-33.

-Noble Doss was happily married for six decades. He was a good father and grandfather. He served in the navy during World War 2. He won two NFL football titles and was named to his High School and College football Hall of Fames. But the memory of one dropped pass faded too slowly, a deep disappointment that he could never shake.

-What is a regret (big or small) that you remember often?

-What do you typically do when such thoughts hit you? Do you dwell on them? Stew over them?

Pray about them? Try to forget them?

BIBLE DISCUSSION:

LOOK DOWN Read the passage for it's original meaning

LOOK OUT Dig into the passage for it's meaning in today's world

LOOK IN Apply the meaning of the passage to our lives

LIVE IT OUT What if we held tightly to the truth of this passage and lived it out completely? How would our lives be different? Our church? Our communities? Our world?

Read Zechariah 3:1-2

-What is Satan's role in increasing our fear of disappointing God?

-Describe ways you have experienced Satan's accusations contributing to your thoughts and fears of disappointing God?

-How does God respond to Satan and his accusations (v. 2)?

Read James 4:6-10

-What do these verses teach us about resisting Satan's lies and thinking rightly about God's love for us?

Read Genesis 2:15-17 and 3:1-8

Sin is disregarding God and ignoring His teaching. Sin is me-focused living not God-focused. When sin takes our focus off of God and onto ourselves, our fears run rampant.

-How did Adam and Eve respond to God after they sinned?

-Why is hiding so often our first response after sin?

Read Hebrews 10:15-23

-Instead of hiding from God, how do these verses say we can approach God because of Jesus?

-What is our confidence and assurance to be based on?

-When you sin is your tendency more to hide from God or to approach Him with confidence?

Read Hebrews 10:24-25

-What connections do you see between our “meeting together” and “spurring one another on” and verses 15-23?

-How has this group helped spur you on to approach God with confidence?

Read 1 John 4:18

Jesus loves us too much to leave us in doubt about His grace. If God loved us with an imperfect love, we would have high cause for worry and fear. Imperfect love keeps a list of sins and consults it often. God keeps no list of our wrongs. His love casts out fear because He casts out our sin! In the video, Max Lucado says, “Nothing fosters courage like a clear grasp of grace. And nothing fosters fear like an ignorance of mercy.”

-When you feel most loved by God, what happens to your fears?

-When you feel furthest from God what happens to your fears?

-How would you describe grace to someone who had never heard of it? How would you illustrate grace from your own life?

-Where do you need to draw near to God to experience His grace and mercy most in your own life right now?

In Preparation for Next Week - Week 6: Fear of Dying/Life's Final Moments

Watch the video or listen to the podcast *Pastor Glenn's April 17, 2016 message—Fear of Dying*
—<http://purposechurch.com/fearless-series/>

FEARLESS book—Read chapter 10

SCRIPTURE READINGS & REFLECTION:

Read these passages and reflect on what they teach about death

John 14:1-3

1 Corinthians 15:20-27

Hebrews 2:14-15

FEARless

April 17, 2016

Pastor Glenn Gunderson

THANATOPHOBIA: The Fear of Dying

Why do people fear death?

DEATH IS HARD ... BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID.

Hebrews 2:14-15

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

THE EXAMPLE OF STEPHEN

Acts 7:54-60

When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Seven Reasons Christians Don't Need to Fear Death:

1. DEATH TAKES US _____ INTO THE

_____ OF JESUS.

2 Corinthians 5:8

We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

D.L. Moody's last words - "Earth recedes - Heaven opens before me!"

What about soul sleep?

Luke 23:43

Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Philippians 1:21 "...I desire to depart and be with Christ..."

Genesis 5:24

Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

2 Kings 2:11


As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

2. DEATH IS LIKE _____ TO AN

2 Corinthians 12:4

was caught up to [paradise](#) and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell.

Revelation 2:7

To follow along on your smartphone scan this QR code or open the YouVersion app. Click  at top > LIVE > search.



Luke 23:43

Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in **paradise**."

Philippians 1:21-23

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to **depart** and be with Christ, which is better by far;

3. DEATH IS LIKE MOVING FROM A _____ INTO A _____.

2 Corinthians 5:1-2

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. ² Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling,

John 14:1-3

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

4. DEATH MEANS EXPERIENCING MANY " _____."

NO MORE _____.

Psalms 16:11

you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

NO MORE _____.

Revelation 21:4

'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

NO MORE _____.

Ephesians 5:27

and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

NO MORE _____ AND _____.

Revelation 14:13 ... for they will rest from all their toils and trials

NO MORE _____.

1 Corinthians 15:53 (NLT)

For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

5. DEATH MEANS SEEING _____ FRIENDS AND MAKING _____ ONES.

MAKING NEW FRIENDS:

Matthew 8:11

I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

SEEING OLD FRIENDS.

"Gathered to his people" = joining our loved ones in Heaven.

2 Samuel 12:23 (NLT) "... I will go to him one day ..."

1 Thessalonians 4:14

For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

****It will be minutes and our loved ones will be joining us in Heaven.***

6. DEATH RESULTS IN A VASTLY IMPROVED _____.

Romans 8:23 (Living Bible)

... We, too, wait anxiously for that day when God will give us our full rights as his children, including the new bodies he has promised us—bodies that will never be sick again and will never die.

Philippians 3:21

... who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

****We get an imperishable body.***

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

****How old will we be in Heaven?***

"At some point in our 20's or 30's our DNA is programmed so that the breakdown of our bodies exceeds the buildup of our bodies."

Hank Hannagraff

7. GOD GAVE VISIBLE _____ HE HAS _____ OVER DEATH.

THE PROMISE:

... he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 1 Peter 1:3

The widow's son in Nain: "'Young man, I say to you, get up!' The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother." Luke 7:14

Jairus' daughter: "'My child, get up!' Her spirit returned and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat." Luke 8:54

Lazarus: "Jesus called in a loud voice, Lazarus, come out! The dead man came out...." John 11:43-44

"If Jesus had not used Lazarus' name, Jesus would have emptied the whole cemetery."

(Puritan theologian quoted by Warren Wiersbe)

****Right after the crucifixion:***

Matthew 27:52-53

Fill in the blanks: instantly, presence, sailing, exotic island, tent, mansion, no mores, boredom, sorrow, sin, trials, struggles, death, old, new, body, proof, power,

FEARless

Week 6

Fear of Dying/Life's Final Moments

LEAN IN

Option 1 – Who is one person you most look forward to seeing when you get to heaven?

Option 2 – What is the closest to a “near death” experience you have had?

Option 3 – “Peaks & Pits”—Share a high and a low from this past week.

FEARLESS SERMON—*FEAR OF DEATH*

This week's session is ALSO based on *Pastor Glenn's April 17, 2016 message "Fear Of Death"*.

For those of you who did, **what was one thing from the message that especially spoke to you?**

BIBLE DISCUSSION:

LOOK DOWN Read the passage for it's original meaning

LOOK OUT Dig into the passage for it's meaning in today's world

LOOK IN Apply the meaning of the passage to our lives

LIVE IT OUT What if we held tightly to the truth of this passage and lived it out completely? How would our lives be different? Our church? Our communities? Our world?

Read Hebrews 2:14-15

-What does this passage tell us about who formerly held the power of death? What did Jesus do to both him and his power?

-In what ways does the fear of death become a kind of bondage? What evidence do you see of this in your life and the lives of people around you?

-What does Jesus bring to all those held in slavery by their fear?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-22

-How important is the resurrection of Jesus in facing our fears of death?

-How can these passages calm our fears about death?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

-What is the most comforting thing here for you as you consider the reality of your own death?

-What is the hardest for you to understand?

-What practical difference does the hope of resurrection have in the lives of believers? (verses 54-58)

In Pastor Glenn's message, he talked about five things that will be "no more" after death:

Read Psalm 16:11 _____

Read Revelation 21:4 _____

Read Ephesians 5:27 _____

Read Revelation 14:13 _____

Read 1 Corinthians 15:53 _____

-Which of these helps you to look forward to heaven the most?

-Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-9

How does Paul's view of his "home" affect his daily living? How does it affect his view of dying?

Read John 14:1-3

-What commands does Jesus give in verse 1?

-What promises does he make in verses 2-3? How will following these commands and trusting in these promises lessen our fears?

Read the last two paragraphs on page 118 of FEARLESS:

-What new understanding does this give you of Jesus' words?

-What are your thoughts and feelings about viewing funerals with the same hope level as weddings?

Read 1 Peter 3:15

-As we are reminded of the difference Jesus makes in facing death, who is someone in your 8-15 (oikos) who needs to hear more about the reason for the hope that you have?

In Preparation for Next Week - Week 6: Fear of Dying/Life's Final Moments

FEARLESS book—Read chapter 13

SCRIPTURE READINGS & REFLECTION:

Read the following passages and reflect on what the Bible teaches us about facing Global Calamity.

Matthew 24:4-14

Psalm 27:1-4

LEARN ABOUT THE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS

-Look back at pages 31-32 in your Rooted book that talks about the persecution of the church in Uganda.

-Visit websites like <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/> for information on the persecution of Christians around the world

FEARless

Week 7 Fear of Global Calamity

LEAN IN

Option 1 – What is your earliest childhood memory of a Global Calamity that stood out to you?

Option 2 – Do you watch the news, read current events, etc., or do you tend to avoid the “bad news”?

Option 3 – What type of Global Calamity do you fear the most? Terror attack? Disease? Earthquake or weather disaster? War? Other?

VIDEO INTRO TO THEME—Lesson 5 (9 minutes)

What is one thing that stood out to you from Chapter 13 in the *Fearless* book or from this video?

BIBLE DISCUSSION:

LOOK DOWN Read the passage for its original meaning

LOOK OUT Dig into the passage for its meaning in today's world

LIVE IT OUT What if we held tightly to the truth of this passage and lived it out with the whole of our lives? How would our lives be different? Our church? Our communities? Our world?

Read Matthew 24:4-14

-Why do you think Jesus mentioned deception first in His description of the end of the world?

-Some examples of false teachers are given in chapter 13 of Fearless. Have you witnessed false teachers in your spiritual experience? Describe what that was like.

-In v. 6 Jesus says, don't be “alarmed”. This word means don't “panic” or “freak out”. In the video and on page 158 Max Lucado talks about avoiding responding to the dangers of this world with “Pollyanna optimism” (blind denial) or “Chicken Little doom and gloom” (blatant panic). Which of these do you tend toward?

-Read the first two paragraphs of page 158. How can Psalm 27:3 and this picture from World War II help us to not panic or freak out even when the world seems to be falling apart?

-In v. 12 Jesus says in the face of persecution, “the love of most will grow cold”. How is the temperature of your faith? Are you on the front lines in spreading the gospel, or has your love for God grown cold? On a scale of 1=very cold and 10=on fire where would you say you are today? Is it growing hotter or colder? Why?

Read Revelation 2:10

- What kind of suffering is promised to some believers?
- How can these believers overcome their fears of such suffering?
- What does God promise to those who overcome their fears and remain strong in Christ?

Read Psalm 27:1-14

- What types of human caused disasters are mentioned in verses 1-3?
- How does the psalmist respond to them?
- What confidence does the psalmist express in verses 5-10? How did he gain his confidence? What can we learn from his experience?
- Which of these verses or phrases do you need to hold onto in facing your fears right now?

In Preparation for Next Week - Week 8: Fear of Satan

- Watch the video or listen to the podcast *Pastor Glenn's April 24, 2016 message—Fear of Satan*
—<http://purposechurch.com/fearless-series/>

INSTEAD OF READING IN FEARLESS THIS WEEK, REVIEW ROOTED WEEK 5

FEARless week 8 is not based on a chapter from the FEARLESS book, but the sermon and the topic are on the same theme as Rooted week 5. Take some time this week to review days 1-5 of week 5 in your Rooted book to see what new insights and victory God wants to bring to you and your group.

SCRIPTURE READINGS & REFLECTION:

What do these passages teach us about Satan and the spiritual battles in our lives?

- Ezekiel 28:12-17**
- Ephesians 6:10-18**
- James 4:6-8**

FEARless

April 24, 2016

Pastor Glenn Gunderson

SATANOPHOBIA: The Fear of Satan

SATANOPHOBIA = Fear of satan, satanic control or devils. Closely related to fear of demons, fear of the bogeyman, fear of witches and witchcraft and fear of ghosts.

HOW TO OVERCOME THE FEAR OF SATAN, DEMONS AND GHOSTS:

1. Don't _____ in _____.

“One of the peculiar sins of the twentieth century which we have developed to a very high level is the sin of (being open to anything). It has been said that when human beings stop believing in God they believe in nothing. The truth is much worse: they believe in anything.”
Malcolm Muggeridge


1 Peter 5:8

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

WHERE DID SATAN AND DEMONS COME FROM?

Ezekiel 28:12-17

... “This is what the Sovereign Lord says: ‘You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. ¹⁵You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.

To follow along on your smartphone scan this QR code or open the YouVersion app. Click  at top > LIVE > search.



¹⁶ Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned.

So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. ¹⁷Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

Isaiah 14:12-14

How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! ¹³You said in your heart, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. ¹⁴I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”

Revelation 12:9

The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

SATAN'S NAMES

Satan (Job 1:6-9)

The Devil (Matthew 4:1,5,9; Ephesians 4:27; Revelation 12:9; 20:2)

The Serpent (Revelation 12:9)

Lucifer, Son of the Morning (Isaiah 14:12)

The Evil One (John 17:15)

The Dragon (Revelation 12:7)

The Prince or Ruler (John 12:31)

Prince of the Power of the Air (Ephesians 2:2)

2. Don't be _____.

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.”

C.S. Lewis

1 Timothy 4:7

Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.

Colossians 2:8

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

ARE GHOSTS REAL?

Hebrews 9:27

Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

CAN A CHRISTIAN BE DEMON POSSESSED?

“Would a gangster become roommates with the Chief of Police?”

Dane Aaker

2 Corinthians 6:14-15

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

“... Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial ...”

SHOULD WE PARTICIPATE IN HALLOWEEN?

“In essentials, unity. In non-essentials, liberty. And in all things charity.”

Augustine

Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

3. Understand Satan's _____.

2 Corinthians 2:11

in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

SATAN CAN'T POSSESS US, BUT HE CAN USE US!

Mark 8:33

But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

SATAN AND HIS DEMONS CAN BE _____!

They can afflict us spiritually, physically and mentally with ...

Sickness (Matthew 9:33 and 12:22; Mark 9:25)

Fierceness (Matthew 8:28)

Unusual strength (Mark 5:4)

Convulsions (Mark 1:26)

Foaming at the mouth (Luke 9:39)

Audibly speaking (Mark 5:7 and 9)

“There is no reason to think that there is any less demonic activity in the

world today than there was at the time of the New Testament. We are in the same time period in God's overall plan for history.” Wayne Grudem

SATAN AND HIS DEMONS CAN BE _____!

They tempt us (1 Thessalonians 3:5)

Promote false doctrine (1 Corinthians 12:3; 1 John 4:2-3; 1 Timothy 4:1)

Fill our minds with lies (John 8:44)

Oppose God's work (Daniel 10:1-15; Acts 13:6-10; Luke 4:38-39)

Blind people to the Gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4)

2 Corinthians 11:14 “...Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.”

“Never trust the smile of a tiger.”

John Steinbeck

4. Stand on Christ's _____.

1 John 3:8

... “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.”

“... there will be a genuine and often immediately recognizable triumph over the power of the enemy. We should expect that this would happen, think of it as a normal part of the work of Christ in building up his kingdom, and rejoice in Christ's victory in it.” Wayne Grudem

THIS AUTHORITY IS FOUND IN _____!

Colossians 2:15

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

James 2:19

You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

5. Fight with _____.

2 Corinthians 10:3

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.

DON'T BE _____ BY SATAN!

James 4:7

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

1 John 5:18

“...the One (Jesus) who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them.”

Fill in the blanks: live, denial, superstitious, schemes, obvious, subtle, victory, Jesus Christ, spiritual weapons, intimidated

FEARless

Week 8—Fear of Satan

LEAN IN

Option 1 – What precautions do you take to protect your family & home from danger or calamity?

Option 2 – Do you like or dislike war movies? Which is your favorite?

Option 3 – “Peaks & Pits”—Share a high and a low from this past week.

FEARLESS SERMON —*FEAR OF SATAN*

This week’s session is based on *Pastor Glenn’s April 24, 2016 message “Fear Of Satan”*.

What was one thing from the message that especially spoke to you?

INTRO TO DISCUSSION

In Week 5 of Rooted we learned about Satan and the spiritual warfare we face as followers of Jesus. We read this quote by C.S. Lewis on Day 2 page 85 of Rooted:

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve their existence. The other is to believe and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.”

This week we want to talk about the Fear of Satan so that we don’t fall into either of these errors but rather experience victory in the spiritual warfare that rages around us.

More from Rooted page 85

HOW CAN WE CLAIM VICTORY IN THIS SPIRITUAL BATTLE?

1) We need to be aware of Satan’s schemes so he doesn’t outwit us. (1 Peter 5:8)

2) Though Satan would love for us to fear him, we also need to remember (2 Timothy 1:7)

Which of these leaves you more vulnerable to Satan’s attacks? Your lack of awareness of his schemes or your fear of him and his evil forces?

BIBLE DISCUSSION:

LOOK DOWN: Read the passage for it’s original meaning

LOOK OUT: Dig into the passage for it’s meaning in today’s world

LOOK IN: Apply the meaning of the passage to our lives

LIVE IT OUT: What if we held tightly to the truth of this passage and lived it out completely? How would our lives be different? Our church? Our communities? Our world?

What Do These Passages Tell Us About Where Satan & Demons Came From?

Ezekiel 28:12-17

Isaiah 14:12-14

Revelation 12:9

Read together the names by which Satan is referred to from the sermon outline.
What do we learn about Satan from these names?

What do you learn from these verses about Satan and your fears?

James 4:6-8

Colossians 2:15

1 John 4:4

Read Ephesians 6:10-18

You can also review Rooted pages 86-87 for teaching on this passage.

-Where do you recognize the spiritual battles in your life right now?

-Where do you feel dressed in God's armor to fight them? Where don't you?

-What is one specific way we can encourage or exhort you to lean on the Holy Spirit and put on God's armor to face your daily spiritual battles?

**In Preparation for Next Week - Week 9: Fear of Total Commitment to God
(May 29 sermon)/God Getting Out of My Box (Fearless book)**

Read FEARLESS book—chapter 14

Listen to Pastor Glenn's May 29, 2016 message—Fear of Total Commitment

SCRIPTURE READINGS & REFLECTION:

Read the and compare the four major accounts of the Transfiguration found in the Bible:

Matthew 17:1-8

Mark 9:2-8

Luke 9:28-36

2 Peter 1:16-18

Take time to reflect on not only what transpired but also how it affected Peter, James and John.



May 29, 2016 – Purpose Church Pomona

Pastor Glenn Gunderson

FEAR OF TOTAL COMMITMENT TO GOD

The Commitment Choice

I choose to commit all my life and will to God's care and control.

Why are people afraid to become fully committed followers of Christ?

They want life to be _____.

Luke 9:57-58

As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

⁵⁸ Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

They are waiting for a _____.

Luke 9:59-60

He said to another man, "Follow me."

But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

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"The time is always right to do what is right." Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

They don't want to leave the _____.

Luke 9:61-62

Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family."

⁶² Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

They don't want to _____ the _____.

"There is not one square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry Mine!" Abraham Kuyper

Luke 18:28-30

Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!"

²⁹ "Truly I tell you," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God ³⁰ will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life."

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”
Jim Elliot

1 Corinthians 10:31
So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

“Commitment means to pledge yourself to a position no matter what the price tag.”
Ed Young Jr.

“There is no problem, I have allowed God to handle everything. I forgive them because they don’t know what they are doing. If they had love, they wouldn’t behave that way. The joy comes from the Lord.”
Danjuma Shakaru

“The more you trust God’s character, the less you’ll be afraid of commitment.”
Dane Aaker

God is committed to keeping His _____ to you.

2 Timothy 2:13
if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

Numbers 23:19
God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

“Trust in yourself and you are doomed to disappointment. Trust in your friends and they will die and leave you. Trust in money and you may have it taken from you. Trust in your reputation and some slanderous tongue may blast it. But trust in God and you are never to be confounded in time or eternity.”
Dwight L. Moody

God is committed to _____ His followers.

2 Chronicles 16:9
For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him ...

2 Peter 1:3
His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

God is committed to giving you a life of _____.

Psalms 37:5-6
Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this:
⁶ He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.

COMMIT = GOL (HEBREW)

Philippians 2:13
for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Fill in the blanks: easy, better time, past behind, pay, price, promises, purpose, empowering

FEARless

Week 9

Fear of God Getting Out of My Box/Total Commitment

LEAN IN

Option 1 – How well do you like camping? In tents?

Option 2 – What would those who are closest say about you: Are you generally more controlling or more laid-back in your approach to life?

Option 3 – Share about a “mountain top” experience in your life.

VIDEO—Lesson 6

-What is one thing that stood out to you from Chapter 14 in the Fearless book or from this video?

-When it comes to defining Jesus, no box works. Into what “boxes” have you tried to put Christ?

BIBLE DISCUSSION:

LOOK DOWN Read the passage for it’s original meaning

LOOK OUT Dig into the passage for it’s meaning in today’s world

LOOK IN Apply the meaning of the passage to our lives

LIVE IT OUT What if we held tightly to the truth of this passage and lived it out completely? How would our lives be different? Our church? Our communities? Our world?

Read Matthew 17:1-8

-Imagine yourself at the scene. **How do you think you would have responded to the events of the day?**

-The disciples are described as being “terrified” in verse 6. But this fear was a holy, healthy fear.

Max Lucado says, “When Christ is great, our fears are not”. **How can a true reverence and awe of God give you stability in times of uncertainty and fear?**

-If this was a healthy fear, **what does Jesus mean when he told the disciples not to be afraid in verse 7?**

-In this life most of us will not see Jesus’ glory firsthand in the way Peter, James and John did. **In what ways can we grasp Jesus’ glory without witnessing it firsthand?**

-**Describe the last time that you encountered Jesus in a way that took your breath away with awe? How did that impact you? How long has it been?**

Read 2 Peter 1:16-19

-What impression did the Transfiguration make on Peter?

-What application does Peter make in verse 19? How can we live this out in our lives?

FEARLESS SERMON—*FEAR OF TOTAL COMMITMENT*

This week's session is ALSO based on *Pastor Glenn's May 29, 2016 message—Fear of Total Commitment.*

What was one thing from the message that especially spoke to you?

Read Luke 9:57-62

Pastor Glenn talked about four things from this passage that keep us from total commitment (see outline):

-wanting life to be easy

-waiting for a better time

-not wanting to leave the past behind

-not wanting to pay the price

-Which one of these holds you back the most from total commitment to God?

-How does Jesus respond to each of these? What does each of Jesus' responses mean?

-If Jesus were to say to you "Follow me—today." What would hold you back from a total commitment to follow?

-How can the healthy, holy fear of God we talked about earlier help you to move toward total commitment to God in your daily living?

In Preparation for Next Week - Week 10: *Fearless final session*

FEARLESS BOOK: Read chapter 15. Also look back over the chapters that we did not cover (4-9, 11-12) and you can select a chapter or more that is most applicable to read and then share insights and applications you gain with the group.

SCRIPTURE READING:

Read over the verses on your FEARless bookmark. Reflect on the new understanding you have of these verses from this FEARLESS series. Choose the ones that are most meaningful for you and commit them to memory.

Think back over each of the topics we have studied:

- Why Are We Afraid?
- Fear of What People Think About Me
- Fear of Not Mattering
- Fear of Being Real
- Fear of Disappointing God
- Fear of Dying/Life's Final Moments
- Fear of Global Calamity
- Fear of Satan
- Fear of Total Commitment

-Which fear was the strongest in your life when you started this study?

-Which has changed the most as a result of going through this study together?

FEARless

Week 10 Fearless Closing Session

LEAN IN

Option 1 – Outside of the FEARless Study, what is one thing that has changed in your life over the last 10 weeks?

Option 2 – What is one thing you are looking forward to this Summer? (or whatever season is coming next)

SERIES REFLECTION

Which fear was the strongest in your life when you started this study?

Week 1--WHY ARE WE AFRAID?

Read Matthew 8:23-27

What did you learn about your fears and how Jesus meets us in our fears through this study?

Week 2-FEAR OF WHAT PEOPLE THINK OF ME

Read Proverbs 29:25

What did you learn and apply about this fear and about focusing more on what God thinks of you?

Week 3-FEAR OF NOT MATTERING

Read Matthew 10:29-31

What did you learn and apply about this fear and your value in God's eyes.

Week 4-FEAR OF BEING REAL

Read Hebrews 4:15-16

How has this group helped you overcome this fear?

Week 5-FEAR OF DISAPPOINTING GOD

Read 1 John 4:18

What did you learn and apply about this fear?

Week 6-FEAR OF DYING/LIFE'S FINAL MOMENTS

Read Hebrews 2:14-15

What did you learn and apply about this fear for you and your oikos?

Week 6-FEAR OF DYING/LIFE'S FINAL MOMENTS

Read Hebrews 2:14-15

What did you learn and apply about this fear for you and your oikos?

Week 7-FEAR OF GLOBAL CALAMITY

Read John 16:33

What did you learn and apply about this fear?

Week 8-FEAR OF SATAN

1 John 4:4-7

What did you learn and apply about this fear?

Week 9-FEAR OF TOTAL COMMITMENT/LETTING GOD OUT OF THE BOX

Read Psalm 37:5

What did you learn and apply about this fear?

-Which of your fears has changed the most as a result of going through this study together?

-What is one way you feel better equipped to help others with their fears as a result of this study?