

Facing Fear In The Darkness

That's In The Bible?

1 Samuel 28:3-25
Leviticus 19:31 20:6 & 27 Deuteronomy 18:9-14

The Story Behind The Story:

1 Samuel 15:1-35 25:1

Lessons From The Witch's Tent:

Hebrews 9:14-22 1 John 1:7-9 Matthew 6:33

“Time may heal all wounds,” but not **sins**.

We really aren't seeking God if we are chasing after:

- ✓ **Blessings** instead of **repentance**
- ✓ **Favor** instead of **faithfulness**

The **darker** our world gets, the **brighter** God's plan seems.

Taking It Home:

2 Timothy 1:7-14 Isaiah 41:10 & 43:1 John 14:27 Philippians 4:6-7,
Psalm 23 27:1 91:1-16 Joshua 1:5-9 1 Peter 5:6-7 Romans 8:14-17 & 38-39

A Christian's response to life is:

- ✓ **Love** and **hope**
- ✓ Never **animosity** and **fear**

Growth Group Homework

For the week of November 6, 2016

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back over your notes, what did you find most helpful, challenging or interesting in this week's teaching?

MY STORY

1. Most of us are afraid of something or have a phobia. What are two or three of your fears?

2. What would you say are the three to five biggest fears people have in our community today?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend we heard some great news of how we can have hope and even be a light when all seems dark. This does not mean that we deny that there are real things worthy of concern and even fear. Instead it means that we do not have to lose our hope and confidence in God, no matter what our culture or life throws at us. How does God reassure us in the following verses that we need not fear and can live a life of confidence?

John 14:1 *New International Version (NIV)*

Jesus Comforts His Disciples

¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

John 14:26-27 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 16:33 *New International Version (NIV)*

³³ "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Romans 8:28 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Proverbs 19:21 *New International Version (NIV)*

²¹ Many are the plans in a person's heart,
but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.

Which of these verses is most helpful for you? Are there any others you would add?

2. No matter where someone lands politically, we've all experienced the dark side of political debates and opinions over the past few months. Unfortunately, this also includes Christians showing their dark side at times. Knowing how to reach out to or accept those who have a different belief system other than our own can be no small challenge. How could the following verses help shape how we communicate with those we disagree with?

Proverbs 12:17-18 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁷ An honest witness tells the truth,
but a false witness tells lies.

¹⁸ The words of the reckless pierce like swords,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Proverbs 15:1 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹ A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 15:14 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁴ The discerning heart seeks knowledge,
but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly.

Proverbs 17:27 *New International Version (NIV)*

²⁷ The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint,
and whoever has understanding is even-tempered.

Proverbs 18:13 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹³ To answer before listening—
that is folly and shame.

3. As followers of Jesus, living out the love and integrity of Jesus is one of the most powerful ways to reach others. Prayer is another way to make a difference. As you read the following passages, make a list of how to pray for our new president, our nation/community leaders, Christians in political office and all those that call themselves Christ followers.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 *New International Version (NIV)*

Instructions on Worship

¹ I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— ² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Titus 3:1-2 *New International Version (NIV)*

Saved in Order to Do Good

¹ Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, ² to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

Proverbs 28:2 *New International Version (NIV)*

² When a country is rebellious, it has many rulers,
but a ruler with discernment and knowledge maintains order.

Proverbs 21:1 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹ In the LORD'S hand the king's heart is a stream of water
that he channels toward all who please him.

Prayer Challenge: There is much going on as a result of the election. When and where could you take 1-2 minutes every day for the next 7 days to pray some of what you listed above?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's teaching and study, what caught your attention the most?

Praise/Prayer Requests:

