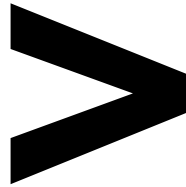


JESUS > ABRAHAM



1.

2.

3.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 20, 2018

As we wrap up the Spring Quarter of Growth Groups, we'd love your feedback. Along with your study, you'll take some time to fill out the new online Feedback Form to provide input about your group experience and your plans for the fall. An email with the feedback form will be sent the night of your group. We really value your comments, and we're looking forward to hearing from you about your group!

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1

This weekend we were reminded about the fear of God. Have you ever noticed that our most popular worship songs are about the love of God and seldom about the fear of God? Can you think of any reasons why this might be?

What lyrics would you include in a worship song about the fear of God?

2

For many of us, our understanding of what it means to fear God is based on our past history or overall experience with fear. For some, that may mean having very little fear or disregarding the fear of God. For others, this may mean that a fear of God leads us to shut down or avoid God altogether. On a continuum from low to high, where would you rate your fear of God?

Low

Medium

High

How would you describe what fearing God looks like to you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1

As we continue to focus on having an accurate view of what it looks like to fear God, how might the passage below challenge someone who doesn't fear God?

Daniel 10:1-12, 15-19 - New International Version (NIV) - *In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war.^[a] The understanding of the message came to him in a vision.² At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks.³ I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.⁴ On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris,⁵ I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.⁶ His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.⁷ I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; those who were with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves.⁸ So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless.⁹ Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.¹⁰ A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.¹¹ He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.¹² Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.*

¹⁵ While he was saying this to me, I bowed with my face toward the ground and was speechless. ¹⁶ Then one who looked like a man^[a] touched my lips, and I opened my mouth and began to speak. I said to the one standing before me, "I am overcome with anguish because of the vision, my lord, and I feel very weak. ¹⁷ How can I, your servant, talk with you, my lord? My strength is gone and I can hardly breathe." ¹⁸ Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength. ¹⁹ "Do not be afraid, you who are highly esteemed," he said. "Peace! Be strong now; be strong." When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength."

How could the following verses help someone who has a fear of God which keeps them from approaching him?

Romans 5:1-2 - New International Version (NIV) - *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.*

Hebrews 4:16 - New International Version (NIV) - ¹⁶ *Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

2

When reading verses about the fear of God, it's clear God works through our fear of him. What insights do the following verses give on how God uses our fear of him to change us, help us grow or equip us?

Psalms 111:10 - New International Version (NIV) - ¹⁰ *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.*

Proverbs 16:6 - New International Version (NIV) - ⁶ *Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the LORD evil is avoided.*

Psalms 25:14 - New International Version (NIV) - ¹⁴ *The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.*

Can you think of any ways the fear of God has equipped you, changed you or helped you grow?

This weekend we saw how Abraham had faith in God because he is good and faithful. This can be hard to see today because we often have a different opinion of what it means for God to be good and faithful. How might the following verses help us redefine what we see as goodness and faithfulness?

Psalm 145:9 - New International Version (NIV) - ⁹The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

James 1:17 - New International Version (NIV) - ¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

1 Corinthians 10:13 - New International Version (NIV) - ¹³No temptation^[a] has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted^[b] beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, ^[c]he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

What are some people's expectations of God's goodness and faithfulness that differ from the verses above?

TAKING IT HOME

As you think through the sermon and this week's study, is there anything you'd like to focus on or change in the coming week?

PRAISE / PRAYER REQUESTS:

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