

FEAR AND FAITH

HANDOUT

Session 5: Fear of the Lord

REVIEW

When was the last time you felt like you had no control in a situation? Why do you think we want to know our future?

Have you ever felt if you did all the right things, God would protect you? Have you ever struggled with anger toward God because of something He allowed in your life? What was that like?

Share a time when you realized your faith was based on faulty information about Jesus. How did you reconcile what you thought you knew with what actually *is* true?

Trillia reminded us that fearing God doesn't mean shaking in terror before Him, but having deep reverence and awe because of who He is. What does it mean to have awe toward God? What sets God apart from everything and everyone else in creation?

When are you most tempted to set your mind continually on the things you fear? What, if anything, helps you shift from focusing on fear to focusing on God?

Jennifer said that praying and spending time with God gave her confidence and reassurance in her relationship with God and others. In what ways are you in need of more confidence and reassurance in your life and faith?

Jennifer found a mentor to help her trust again. Have you had a mentor before, or have you mentored someone else? How did that kind of relationship affect your life?

Trillia outlined three ways for us to grow in the fear of the Lord: Pray. Read the Bible. Confession. Which of these areas is your weakest? Strongest? Why?

Where and when do you typically pray? Are you in need of a more scheduled or intentional prayer life?

What role has the Bible played when you've battled fear? What stories can you recall that speak to fear?

What prompted the last time you voiced your fears to God and handed them over to Him with trust?

Who, in your circle, do you trust to confess your fears and life's general worries? How has community helped you better know and trust God? What fears has your community helped alleviate?

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BIBLE EXPLORATION

Luke 11:1-4. List the components of the Lord's Prayer.

What about the Lord's Prayer helps you fear, or revere, God?

Hebrews 4:12. What does Hebrews 4:12 tell us about the Word of God?

What are some ways reading the Bible has helped you understand the greatness of God? What benefits do you reap when you immerse yourself in the Scriptures?

James 5:16 and 1 John 1:9. Who are we to confess our sins to?

Why do you think James stresses the importance of corporate prayer?

What promise does God give to us if we confess?

What do these verses teach us about the character of God?

Who in your life today represents fearlessness toward problems and a strong reverence toward God?

Share five things, circumstances, or worries that God is bigger than.

In what ways have you forgotten that God is bigger than _____? What has helped reorient your mind in this area in the past? What will it take for you to revere God as you wrestle with this fear?

DEEPER WALK

Select at least one activity below to complete during the next week.

- **Personal Action:** Every day this week, write down at least one way God is bigger than your fear.
- **Reading:** Read chapters 9 & 11 from Trillia's book, *Fear and Faith*.
- **Mentoring:** Write a thank you card to someone who is fearless, thanking them for demonstrating healthy faith and reverence toward God.
- **Conversation:** As God leads, share one of the fears you haven't shared publicly with a trustworthy, safe friend. Pray together.
- **Memorization:** Memorize Hebrews 12:28-29. When you see someone living fearlessly and boldly, tell them how they specifically exemplify that verse.
- **Pray:** Ask God to send you someone who has struggled with fear so you can share what you've learned in this study with her/him.