

FAITH, FEAR, AND ★ POLITICS

WEEK THREE

Fear

MAIN IDEA

We can't hold onto fear and trust Jesus at the same time.

STARTER

Would you rather spend the night in a cave full of spiders or spend the night in a hammock strung between two skyscrapers?

SCRIPTURE EMPHASIS

As a group, read these passages before you begin your discussion:

- 1 John 4:18
- John 16:33
- Romans 8:38-39

UNPACKING WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT ...

- Not all early Christians faced persecution, but these passages below describe horrible conditions that some early Christians faced, and many others witnessed:
 - 2 Cor. 11:25
 - Acts 12:1-3
 - Matt. 14:10-12
 - Rev. 1:9

How do you think you would do in conditions like these?

- As Jesus followers, does the current state of our world (and politics) scare you? What are some of your fears?
- Fear can bring about one of two reactions:
 - We can react **IN** fear and fight back.
 - We can react **TO** fear by choosing to trust God knows what He is doing

What are some actions you need to take to reject fear and choose to trust God instead?

- Read 1 John 2:15-17. John talks about the 'things of this world' and we automatically think of money and possessions. Is it possible that some of our fear about the state of the world comes from holding on to the 'things of this world' like our culture or country or a way of life that we want to keep hold of? Are we more attached to our politics or preferences than we are with the kingdom of God?

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK

Memorize 1 John 4:18 - "perfect love expels all fear." Recite it when you get scared about what is happening

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Scripture to look at for when we feel like "its worse than it's ever been" for the Church

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU FEAR...

- We should never worry or fear that God will forsake us or that he won't ultimately provide what he knows we need. - Phil. 4:67, Matt 6:25-34, Hebrews 13:5, Romans 8:35-39
- That doesn't mean nothing bad or harmful will ever happen to believers. - 2 Tim. 3:12, John 16:33, John 9:1-3
- Doing what we can to protect ourselves from unnecessary harm is absolutely wise and Biblical. - Proverbs 22:3, John 7:1 (even Jesus avoided unnecessary danger).
- We should never be afraid of sharing the Gospel - 2 Tim. 1:6-8
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- Doing what we can to protect ourselves from unnecessary harm is absolutely wise and Biblical. - Proverbs 22:3, John 7:1 (even Jesus avoided unnecessary danger).
- We fight by trusting our God who ultimately wins the battle - 1 John 4:4, Rev. 12:7-12
- The Church isn't going anywhere. - Matt. 16:18
- We should never be afraid of sharing the Gospel - 2 Tim. 1:6-8