

Life Group Questions

Kingdom Power – a sermon series in Matthew 8-10

Competing Fears / Pastor Jordan Chanin / Matthew 10:26-33 / Nov. 27/28, 2021

To the Life Group leader: thank you for your ministry leading this Life Group. **Take time to review the questions, selecting those you believe will be most helpful for your group study.** You will not have time to use all the questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you lead, as you select questions, and as you guide the discussion. As a team, we're praying for the Holy Spirit to guide you, lead you and speak through you.

We all have countless examples of life where the sensation of fear kept us safe. However, as much as you and I try to avoid our fears and wish we didn't feel afraid of things, we need to realize that fear can be a healthy emotion that we need. In today's scripture reading, Jesus is speaking to some of the biggest and most important fears in our lives. These competing fears can make the difference between whether we live in obedience to God or not. Depending on which fears we allow to drive us, we might completely miss the opportunities that God has prepared for us to walk in. Let's learn from Jesus how to navigate the more significant fears in our lives.

Reconnect

Come together with these preliminary questions:

- What are you afraid of?
- How have you experienced fear controlling your life?
- What fears do you accept, and what fears do you reject?
- How have you overcome your fears?

Open in Prayer

Invite God to speak into the lives of your group members through His Spirit, His Word, and through each other.

Message Recap

Review the message using these questions

1. What stood out to you most in this week's message?
2. What was the most meaningful thing you heard in the message? Why?
3. What questions are still lingering?

Choose discussion and application questions

1) Don't fear people

Matthew 10:26 So don't be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed or hidden that will not be made known.

- a) Pastor Jordan said he has spoken to many Christians from a variety of churches about their experience of sharing the Gospel. The one thing that nearly every single one of them has said is that they rarely ever do it because they are afraid of how people will respond.
 - i) What thoughts went through your mind when you heard Pastor Jordan's message that people are afraid of sharing the Gospel with others?
 - ii) Please share your personal experiences of letting your fear of people hinder or stop you from sharing the Gospel with others?
 - iii) How did you overcome that fear?
- b) God commands us to do the exact opposite, to never fear people. So, every time we feel afraid of other people and consider not sharing the truth and love of God with them, we need to remember these words of Jesus. Matthew 28:20b, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
 - i) Please take a minute to pause and pray. Who is God inviting you to share the Gospel with? Please invite life group members to share the names and commit to praying for each other during closing prayer time.
 - ii) Invite the life group members to share their experiences of sharing the Gospel with other people.
- c) We have God's promise that all truth will be made known when Jesus returns. (v. 26)
 - i) How does this promise from God encourage you to share the Gospel boldly and lovingly with others?
- d) Ask people what kind of training or guidance they would like to help them step into sharing the Gospel with others. Pass on training ideas/requests to Pastor Brad or Willy. bbates@willingdon.org wreimer@willingdon.org

2) Don't fear death

Matthew 10:28a *Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.*

- a) Pastor Jordan said, both our life on this earth and our life after death matter tremendously to God. It's only a couple of verses after the statement "don't be afraid of people who can kill the body but not the soul" that Jesus assures us that "the very hairs of our head are all numbered."
 - i) Even the hairs on your head are all numbered – what a lovely illustration of God's love for us. How would you respond to this verse? What does this teach us about God?
- b) Even though our bodies have immense value, we are not to fear our inevitable deterioration as we age and die. We should not fear those who can kill our bodies because as much as they matter, it is our souls that will live on for eternity in our resurrected, perfect bodies.
 - i) How do you respond to the beautiful assurance that we have souls that will live on for eternity in our resurrected, perfect bodies?
- c) If you are in Jesus, then you are a new creation, and you have been given the mind of Christ based on 1 Corinthians 2:16, *we have the mind of Christ*.
 - i) How would you apply your life based on the verse 1 Corinthians 2:16 that you have the mind of Christ?

3) Fear God

Matthew 10:28b *Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*

- a) What does it mean to fear God?
- b) Jesus is commanding us only to be afraid of God. No one and nothing else. Why?

- c) Jesus calls all of his followers to the Great Commission in Matthew 28; “as you go, make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey God and baptizing them to commit their lives to God’s ways above everything else.”
 - i) Reflect on your day-to-day life (school, workplace, or neighborhoods). How have you applied the Great Commission to reach out and point others to Jesus?
 - d) Pastor Jordan gave two important reasons that why we need to fear God.
 - i) We need to let the truth sink in. Pastor Jordan referenced Matthew 7:22-23. *Many will say to me on that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles? Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!*
 - (1) What is your reaction to Matthew 7:22-23?
 - (2) What steps can you take to let the truth of Matthew 7:22-23 sink in?
 - ii) We need quickly cover what healthy fear of God is. We fear God because He is Holy. Pastor Jordan shared the degree to which He is holy cause a deep fear within us, a fear that is rooted in reverence, acknowledging his greatness that goes beyond words.
 - (1) What does healthy fear of God look like?
 - (2) When was the last time you had an encounter with the Lord with deep reverence and adoration of who He is?
- 4) Don’t fear your circumstances**
- Matthew 10:29-31 *Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.*
- a) How does Matthew 10: 29-31 encourage you to believe that your Heavenly Father cares deeply for you?
 - b) What past circumstances have caused you to fear greatly?
 - c) Are you currently going through a season of fear because of your circumstances?
 - d) Invite group members to share their experiences of overcoming fear in challenging circumstances.
 - e) How has God your Father “shown up” amid great fear?

Choose Your Next Step

What next step will you commit to for the upcoming week (and beyond)?

If people have shared their desire to discern Jesus’ leading in their lives, commit to following up with each other during the week. Call, text, or email each other words of encouragement, specific prayer requests, or answers to prayer.

Closing Prayer

A closing prayer is an encouraging way to point people back to our loving Father – the only Way helps us cast away our fears. Read over verses such as 1 Peter 5:7 cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you or 1 John 4:18 there is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear. Spend time to declare and proclaim the truth of who God is and who we are in Christ. Also ask group members to share who they sense God is calling them to share the good news with and pray for each other.