

LIFE GROUPS

LEADER PAGE | Ascent | WEEK 9 of 15 | Sermon date: October 02, 2022

Before Group *(do the heart work)*

Proverbs 1:7 says, “The *fear* of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, fools despise wisdom and instruction.” The wise *fear* the Lord. We don’t often talk about fearing the Lord. Instead, we often talk about believing in the Lord, trusting him, loving him, and serving him. These are all good things yet the wise *fear* the Lord which means to have a deep reverence. The wise dread the consequences of disobedience and are afraid of disappointing Him or “grieving the Holy Spirit” (Eph. 4:30). Do you have a *healthy fear* of the Lord? How’s your reverence? How do your decisions reflect that?

During Group *(facilitate effectively)*

This week in group our **HEAD** question has us looking at Psalm 128 and processing what it means to *fear* the Lord. Some might struggle with the word “*fear*” when referring to our relationship with God who is Love. This *fear* is different than the emotion we might feel when in danger, panic, or anxiety. As you go further into the passage, list the characteristics of God worthy of that *fear*. Our **HEART** question is to discover if we have a “*healthy fear*” for God which is a holy awe, reverence, and glad obedience because of who He is. As members share, ask follow-up questions to understand the deeper reasons and struggles each person has when sidetracked with selfish motives. Our discussion ends with our **HANDS** question, help the group to share how they can grow personally and with each other in a healthy manner. If the group is having hard time getting started, be prepared to share first in this area.

After Group *(leading intentionally)*

After group this week, take time to pray specifically for everyone. This topic required deep vulnerability in sharing the why and how of having a “*healthy fear*” of the Lord. The **HEART** question may have exposed some sin patterns, so be intentional about seeking out those shared honestly and are noticeably struggling. Give them a word of encouragement through text, a phone call or an intentional leader might even take them to coffee. Give the gift of time and proximity to your people by sharing your journey with having a “*healthy fear*” and how exactly that looks like for you.

Announcements *(share with your group)*

Looking for a way to serve our community? Whiz Kidz is seeking after school tutors to pour into the hearts and minds of kiddos once a week. It’s a great opportunity for group members to serve and grow together! Click [here](#) for more details.



Did You Know? *(Reinforcing our culture)*

Relationships are a time where leaders come together to talk through the wins & challenges of shepherding others in a relational context! Simply put, we build our up Life Group leader community by building up one another. This will be the last Relationship of the 2022 Life Group season. Come join us! Sunday October 9th, 1-2 pm. No child care. Lunch is provided, Please register today by clicking [here](#), and we’ll see you there.

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FACILITATOR PAGE | *(Reproducible Process/Overall Alignment)*

Welcome | Opening Prayer | Highs & Lows *(5 mins.)*

Weekly Vision Checklist *(Intentional Leader - 5 mins.)*

- Announcements *(see bottom of Leader Page)*
- Our Why *(Jesus commands us to make disciples. Mt. 28:18-19)*
- Our Goal *(spiritual growth in becoming disciple makers)*
- Our How *(is Life Groups, cast a vision around importance of branching)*
- Guidelines *(setting the rails for healthy discussion)*
 - Confidentiality *(what's said here stays here)*
 - Avoid Crosstalk *(no side conversations while others are sharing)*
 - Avoid Fixing & Rescuing *(fight the urge to jump in and save)*
 - Use I Statements *(avoid using general terms, speak personally)*
 - Contribute Over Consume *(everyone is encouraged to participate)*
 - Be Mindful of Self *(allow all to share and use humor responsibly)*

Hook Question *(a related thought-provoking question- 5 mins.)*

Growing up, what were you most fearful of?

Recap the Message *(frame the discussion - 5 mins.)*

Read Psalm 128 out loud and then get 1 or 2 takeaways from the message.

Implications *(discussion questions based off the underlined implication - 5 mins.)*

1. Fear of the Lord empowers us, it doesn't cause shame.
2. How we work is a testimony of who our God is.
3. When we are right fighters, we damage the people that matter most to us.
4. We must live with our eyes focused on eternity. This helps us make better decisions.

Discussion Questions *(going beyond the surface- 55 mins.)*

- **HEAD** - Read Psalm 128:1-2. What does it mean to “fear” the Lord? What are the results to fearing the Lord and how does that reflect God's character?
- **HEART** – Where in your life do you lack a healthy fear (or reverence) for the Lord, and how is that making space for sin?
(Follow-Up Questions: Where does that lack of fear come from? Who are you hurting unintentionally by not having it?)
- **HANDS** – How can a “healthy fear” of the Lord empower you instead of shaming you, and how can we pursue that together as a group?

Prayer Prompts *(Scripture-fed, Spirit-led, Worship-based prayer prompts – 10 mins.)*

Read Psalm 128:1-2 before praying these prompts.

God you are worthy of all praise and all reverence because You alone are _____.

Knowing these truths about You, I can't help but to _____.

Father, please remind me to have a “healthy fear” of You when _____.

Reverence does not shame me for _____ it empowers me.