

*Would you like to join a Small Group at Fellowship Bible Church?*

Most existing groups are open to new group members, and new groups begin on a regular basis. If you have friends in a small group, ask about joining their group. If you are new to Fellowship and are looking for a place to connect, please feel free to contact us and we can help you find the right group.

*Leader Tips:*

1. The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through, others will be over in a few seconds!
2. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was taught on Sunday morning. Just ask questions and let everyone else talk.
3. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
4. Have fun. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of Small Groups. So have fun with the people in your group.

*Agenda for a Small Group Meeting*

*Gathering Time*

Take 15-20 minutes to welcome everyone, catch up, and share some food!

*Discussion Time*

Here's a suggested format:

1. *Ice Breaker* – Lighthearted ice-breaker question (15-20 min.)
2. *Discussion* - Discussion time, Bible study, application challenge (30-40 min.)
3. *Prayer* – Prayer requests and praying for one another (15-30 min.)
4. *Planning* – Keep the vision before the group, HEALTH planning, etc. (10 minutes)

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Fear This  
**Fear Factor**  
Phillip Wright  
February 12, 2012

## Warm up!

Who's been a model of courage for you?

Things that scare me:

- The number of calories in a jelly doughnut.
- Braille menus at Wendy's drive-through.
- Hearing, "I have the perfect date for you!"
- Returning from lunch to, "You have 27 new messages!"
- Opening my 401k statement.
- Carbs and fat grams
- The gym
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Talk it over!

1. Fear God? We can't deny it.

Take a few minutes and look up these verses:

Deuteronomy 5:29; Joshua 24:14; Job 28:28  
Psalm 2:11; Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7;  
Ecclesiastes 12:13; Luke 12:4-5; Revelation 15:4

What do these verses have in common?

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2. Fear God. Let's define it.

But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love...  
—Psalm 33:18

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

—1 John 4:18

But with you there is forgiveness;  
therefore you are feared.

—Psalm 130:4

Question: What is the tension that is found in these verses? Can this tension be resolved?

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Being afraid makes me run from God,  
not run to God.

*Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."*

—Genesis 3:8-10

*Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

—Hebrews 4:16

*Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." <sup>18</sup> And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,*

—Hebrews 10:17-19

Question: In the above verses, what reasons do we have for approaching God with confidence?

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Are you running from God or towards God right now in your life?

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**3.** Fear God. Let's demonstrate it.

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
<sup>6</sup> in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

*<sup>7</sup> Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
fear the LORD and shun evil.*

—Proverbs 3:5-7

Question: Which of these ways of demonstrating the fear of God do you need help in right now?

- Lay down in the Lord. (v5)
- Lean on Jesus' wisdom. (v 5)
- Look for Jesus in each part of you life (v 6)
- Look away from sin (v 7)

## Work It Out!

One thing I'll do differently because of this sermon:

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