



The Fellowship

“Oprah famously stated that she rejected Christianity because any religion that taught that God had to be feared was not something she desired to be a part of. It is hard to see the Hebrew word יָרֵא (yā·rē) or the Greek word φόβος (phobos) be translated as “fear” of the Lord, yet it means so much more than just fear. These words connote an awe, a reverence, for the greatness of our God and they lead to an understanding of ourselves and our world and how to live wisely in light of who our God is. Many of us struggle with this idea that we are to fear the Lord, but it is a natural state of being that comes upon us as His character is illuminated to us. How does awe/fear bring wisdom? How do we pursue after awe of the Lord? These are the questions we will wrestle with this week together at Adventure.”

INTRODUCTION ACTIVITY:

What are you afraid of?

MEMORY VERSE:

Acts 2:42-47

“42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

SCRIPTURE READING:

Acts 2:43

“And awe[a] came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.”

Acts 9:31

“So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.”

Acts 19:17

“And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled.”

Acts 2:41

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and the prayers.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. If someone asked you what the Bible is referring to when it talks about “fear of the Lord,” how would you explain it to them?
2. Why do you think this is such a prominent theme in the entirety of the Bible?
3. When you hear phrases like “The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom,” how do you interpret it?
4. In the book of Acts, a Holy Encounter leads to a Fear of the Lord, which leads to a Holy Transformation. Have you had a time in your life where you’ve experienced this? Share it with the group.
5. We can’t force the hand of the Spirit, or make the Father light up a bush in the desert, so how do we set ourselves up to be more likely to have a Holy Encounter?
6. How does Acts 2:43 (and all of the other uses of the word *phobos*) point us back to Acts 2:42?

CLOSING PRAYER ACTIVITY:

Invite someone to close the group in prayer.