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## LOVING JESUS, LOVING PEOPLE, PLOWING A COUNTER-CULTURE

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**TEXT:** Acts 2:42–47

**MAIN IDEA:** A healthy Christian community is characterized with a spirit of awe and fear of the Lord.

### LEADERS:

- College-ish is underway! If you are a young adult, age 18–25, looking to connect and grow in the Lord this summer, then stop by the Totowa campus on Monday nights from 7–8:30. Doors open at 6:30—come early to hang! College-ish will run from May 30–July 4.
- We will be having a family dedication service on June 5th. This is where we as parents and as a church commit to raising our children in the love and knowledge of Jesus. Do you have kiddos under age 5 and haven't done this? Then sign up on the Digital Bulletin.
- Summer Sessions is around the corner! Two evening classes will be on offer. The first is an in-depth walk through the book of Ruth with Donna Aust, and the second is called "I've Got Questions," which will be taught by Doug Becker and Walt Windish and will address some of the big head scratchers that are important for understanding our faith. These will be held on Thursday evenings at our Totowa campus from June 30 to August 4. More details to come.

### GETTING STARTED:

- Watch this week's Community Extras Video.
  - **Icebreaker:** What is an irrational fear that you have?
  - **Opener:** What stood out for you most from the sermon this week?
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### Read Acts 2:42–47.

This is our last week studying some of the ingredients of a strong Christian community, which we find in the summary of the first church in Acts 2. We've looked at devotion to the Apostles' teaching and biblical community, and today we are considering the biblical concept of awe. As we learned in the sermon, the Greek word that is translated "awe" in verse 43 is *phobos*, which actually means "fear."

  Three times the Scriptures tell us that "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Ps 111:10; Prov 4:7; 9:10). And Proverbs 1:7 says it's "the beginning of knowledge." What does this mean?

 What comes to mind when you hear people talk about "fearing God"?

 Can you share about a time when you were gripped (in a good way) with a sense of awe and fear of the Lord?



## WHAT FEAR OF GOD LOOKS LIKE

### Read Isaiah 6:1–5.

🧠 In the Totowa sermon, we learned that “the year king Uzziah died” was a time of tremendous political, economic, and social unrest in Jerusalem. How does this tiny bit of background information impact our understanding of what this passage is saying to us?

🧠 What areas of your life need to be shaped by a proper fear of the Lord?

### Read Isaiah 8:11–13.

🧠 What are some things that our culture and life experiences cause us to fear and dread?

🧠 How can we engage with these things in a healthy way that upholds God as our true “fear” and “dread”? How, especially, can we do this in a way that enables us to be salt and light to the world around us?

## AWE PRODUCES GENEROSITY

### Read Acts 2:43–45.

🧠 Here we see the radical generosity that was produced by awe in the hearts of believers. Why is it that generosity so often results from a fear of God?

🧠 In what ways do you feel that the Lord is calling you to be generous? How are you responding to that call?

## AWE PRODUCES CONTENTMENT

🧠 How and why does our culture produce discontentment within us? In what way is the fear of God an effective counter to this?

🧠 In the Ringwood sermon, Ryan Franey made the helpful point that we don’t tend to see God’s provision for our needs as an expression of his blessing. Instead, we sometimes see our wants as needs, and cast shade on God when he doesn’t fulfill them as we want him to. What are some of the needs in your life that you don’t commonly think of as his blessing?

🧠 Where in your life do you struggle with contentment?



## AWE PRODUCES WORSHIP

**Read Hebrews 12:28–29.**

- ①  What is worship, and what are the various ways we can worship the Lord?
- ②  What practical steps can you take to cultivate an attitude of reverence and awe towards God?

## PRAYER TIME

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Praise the Lord as the one who is truly worthy of our awe.

Pray that the Lord would instill in you a godly fear and reverence towards him.

Continue to pray for our country, as our heart breaks in the wake of yet another tragic shooting, this time in Ulvade, Texas. Pray that he would be a light to you as you engage with others on this.