

## Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides

April 23rd

### Icebreaker Questions (Pick at the least one question, but use as many as your group feels comfortable)

1. What activities are you most excited about starting as the weather gets warmer?

### Bible Study Questions

1. Think a moment about the people that you either work with or do life with. What do you think are their greatest fears?
  - What fears most often keep you up at night?
  - How do you most often react to fear? Control or avoidance?
2. Richard Nixon once talked about our country's problems and said "*to find the answer, we need only look within ourselves.*" What is wrong with this statement?
  - What is wrong with anytime that we trust people, politicians, or resources to protect us from our fears?
3. Read Matthew 8:23-27
  - Why did Jesus seem surprised that they were afraid?
  - How should their being in a boat with Jesus changed the way that they addressed threats?
4. Read Proverbs 1:7
  - What does it mean to you to fear God?
  - Many writers have referred to American faith as a view of God doesn't really care about our choices and just wants us to be happy. How does that compare with a Biblical view of a holy and just God?
  - How should a healthy view of God impact the way that we address sin?
  - People often fall into an extreme of either living in fear of a wrathful God or treating him like a teddy bear. How do you navigate those two extreme?
5. Pastor Michael talked about Jesus being the bridge between living in fear of God and resting in him. How does Jesus do that?

- Think a bit about most common fears such as death, suffering, or economic collapse. How does knowing Jesus become the antidote to any of these fears?
6. How does this study help you live a life more free of fear?

**April 23rd**  
**Static: Insecure**

We often laugh at fear, but the truth is that many of us are enslaved to it. Whether the fear is public speaking, death, or world war, it can live rent free in our minds and hold us back from experiencing the freedom that God wants us to live with.

**I. Problem: The static of fear**

**II. The key to dealing with fear is to know in whom you have placed your trust:** Many of us choose to place our trust within our own abilities, relationships, or financial resources. Yet each of those are temporary and limited. In Matthew 8, Jesus and the disciples encounter a terrifying storm while crossing the Sea of Galilee. When the disciples cry out, Jesus responds by asking them “why are you afraid?” The point was that with Jesus in the boat, there was no reason for fear. He was the one being in all creation who is both eternal and limitless.

**a. A proper view of God should inspire fear:** The Bible teaches that one should fear God (Proverbs 1:7, Matthew 10:28). Some try to diminish these passages by saying that we are to “respect” God. But respect doesn’t capture the essence of fearing God. In Isaiah 6, Isaiah sees God in all of his splendor and falls to the ground in fear. He does this because he realizes that he is nothing and his sin condemns him. A proper fear of God reminds us that God is holy and serious about sin. He is not a God to be played with.

**b. Jesus becomes the bridge between fearing God and resting in God who should be feared:** People either dismiss God as a big teddy bear or as a being to live in constant fear of. But Jesus takes care of that. In Jesus, we have holiness and our need for a savior. But we also have God stepping in to save us from his wrath. As a result, we can now rest in God knowing that the most fearful being in the universe is loving and caring for us.

**Conclusion**

In Psalms 131, David describes his walk with God as a weaned child leaning on its mother’s breast. Being in a mother’s arms brings comfort even in the midst of a hurricane. There are times, such as getting shots, that a mother allows her children to suffer in order to help them. But the children are safe as they stay in her arms. In the same way, God is our loving dad. No one messed with our dad. He is able to handle our fears.