



SEPTEMBER 19

SIGNS

THE COMING SHOWDOWN

This weekend we continued our series, Signs and followed the religious leaders as they reacted to the ultimate sign of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. From that passage we learned that fear could either distort how we see Jesus or lead us to experience more of Him. As you begin, take a moment to set your heart on God and contemplate the following verse:

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. **John 14:27***



GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

You've been exiled to a deserted island for a year. You are told you may take three things you want, apart from the essentials. What would you take and why?



READ

What does the Word say about fear?

The following verses provide truths about who God is and how He impacts our worries or fears. Read through these verses before responding to the questions below. As you read, write down any insights or words in your journal that stick out to you.

- John 16:33
- 1 John 4:13-18
- Joshua 1:7-9
- Isaiah 41:10
- Philippians 4:4-7
- Psalm 56:3-4



REFLECT

What do these passages teach us about overcoming fear?

1. We began this study by reflecting on John 14:27. Why do you think His “peace” acts as an “antidote” to fear? Explain.
2. In John 16:33, Jesus states, “*In the world you will have trouble ... I have overcome the world.*” What do you think that means?
3. Read 1 John 4:13-18 again. In verse 16, what does John say is equal to God? In verse 18, what drives out fear?
4. In Joshua 1, the Lord instructs Joshua to lead the Israelites through the Jordan River and into the promised land. Three times in this chapter the Lord commands him to *be strong*

and courageous. Read verses 7-9 again and write down why Joshua does not need to be afraid.

5. Re-read Isaiah 41:10. What reasons does God provide for His people to not be afraid?
6. In Philippians 4:4-7, the apostle Paul is encouraging the believers in Philippi to not be anxious about anything. What else is he encouraging them to do in these three verses?
7. Psalm 56 is written by David as he is running for his life from King Saul. What do you think David means when he says, *"I put my trust in you"*?



RESPOND

In light of these insights, how does God want me to respond?

1. In this weekend's message, Dre shared two truths about fear.

- *Fear Can Be Used To Distort Jesus*
- *Fear Can Lead Us To a Bigger Jesus*

What is your top takeaway from each of these points?

2. Fear and worry are natural emotions that all of us experience. Where do you think your fear comes from? In those moments of fear, what is your heart focused on?

3. In the message this weekend, Dre also taught: *We often think the antidote to fear is "answers" but the real antidote to fear is Jesus' presence.*

- Looking back over your life, has there ever been a time when you felt fearful, but experienced the Lord breaking through to help you overcome? Explain.

4. Read the following quote from *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers:

Fretting springs from a determination to get our own way. Our Lord never worried and He was never anxious because He was not "out" to realize His own idea; He was "out" to realize God's ideas. Fretting is wicked if you are a child of God ... All our fret and worry is caused by calculating without God.

- What impacts you the most about this quote?

5. In this study we looked at Philippians 4:4-7. In these verses, Paul is encouraging believers to rejoice, worry about nothing, but pray about everything with a thankful heart!

- Spend some time writing in your journal any worries or fears you may be experiencing right now. It's important and healthy to bring these to light. In addition, write down those things you are thankful for.
- 1 Peter 5:7 says to *cast your anxieties on the Lord*. Begin praying through your worries or fears and cast them onto the Lord. Ask Him to give you a fresh Godly perspective of what you are facing. Also, spend time giving thanks for the things God has revealed to you.

6. Psalm 46 says that God is reigning over His creation. It describes a God who can make the *earth melt* and *wars cease*, and yet, He is the same God in whom we find our place of refuge, hope and strength. Verse 10 says, *"Be still and know that I am God."*

As an exercise, read verse 10 a few times and choose to *Be still...* rest in God's presence. Really take time with this verse and rest on every word. Then take a moment to be silent before God. Write down any insights you sense God is giving you.



TOPICAL PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of each Life Group. Often those who are new to a Life Group are intimidated by praying aloud if they have never done it before. Others are so comfortable with prayer that they can take over the prayer time without meaning to. For these reasons we suggest practicing topical prayer to help your group get comfortable praying together. Here are three basic guidelines:

1. Focus on a Single Topic/Request at a Time

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request. Once a topic is introduced, one or two members pray for that request. Then the Life Group leader will direct the prayer time by sharing the next topic/request.

2. Pray Several Times Together

By focusing on one topic at a time, each member has an opportunity to pray at different times for the requests they are most passionate about.

3. Keep Requests/Prayers Short and Simple

By keeping both requests and prayers short and simple, everyone has a chance to share and pray. This helps those who are new to prayer feel more comfortable praying. It also helps everyone stay focused during your time of prayer together.