

the fear of the LORD

1. Read Proverbs 1:7, Psalms 128, Genesis 1 Matthew 5. 2. When you hear the phrase “*fear of the Lord*,” what emotions or images usually come to mind—comfort, anxiety, reverence, distance, something else? Why do you think that is? 3. In Matthew 5, Jesus blesses people who are poor in spirit, grieving, meek, and hungry. Which of those descriptions do you most relate to right now? Why? 4. The sermon suggested the Beatitudes are not rewards for spiritual success but announcements of God’s Kingdom arriving to hurting people. How does that reshape the way you hear Jesus’ words? 5. Genesis says humans were made in God’s image. What does it practically look like to live as an image-bearer in everyday life—at work, online, in conflict, in your neighborhood? 6. Jesus calls His followers salt and light. Where do you see those qualities showing up in your life right now? Where do you feel dulled, hidden, or hesitant? 7. The sermon named fears that can dominate us—fear of others, fear of change, fear of being wrong, fear of losing control. Which of those feels most powerful in your own life at this season? 8. “When was the last time God took your breath away?” What experiences—spiritual, natural, personal—have stirred awe in you before? Why do you think awe fades so easily? 9. How would you describe the difference between being afraid *of* God and standing in awe *before* Him? What might change in your prayer life if awe became central again? 10. Psalm 128 links fearing the Lord with walking in His ways and flourishing. What habits or rhythms might help cultivate that kind of reverent, trusting fear this week? 11. If recovering awe of God really does shrink lesser fears, what is one concrete step you could take this week to “look up” again—Scripture, silence, creation, worship, reconciliation, generosity, courage?

Go Deeper

When we meet Jesus, our lives are changed. How is your life changing? Today you may have sensed a nudge from God. What will you do with that prompting?

This is a guide for individual, family, or small group use.

A Guide For Small Groups

1. Gather some friends
2. Find a comfortable place to meet
3. Agree to keep each other’s confidence
4. Open with prayer.
5. Use the scripture provided, or something of your choosing.
6. Use the questions provided, or others you find helpful.
7. For accountability and personal growth, ask the following questions
 - a. How is it with your soul?
 - b. Have you done all the good you could and avoided all the evil you could this week?
 - c. Have you practiced the means of Grace? (public worship, prayer, scripture, acts of kindness and service, etc.)
 - d. How can we as a group best pray for and support you?
8. Pray for one another.

2 Week Challenge

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

Prayer Times with Ashes

10AM

Soup Supper

5:30

Service and Imposition of Ashes

7PM

Sanctuary Will Be Available for Prayer all Day