

Welcome

Do you have any fears or phobias that the group may not know about?
Discuss as a group, when is a time that you have been most fearful?

Word

This week we are going to be exploring the subject of fear and how we manage the fears that we have. It may be that we aren't aware of our own fears, or have never got to a place where we assess the fears that we carry. We will also explore further the things we should be fearing and how we live in the tension of freedom and fear.

What are some examples where fears have kept us safe and some examples of where fears have constrained us? What do you think are the most common fears that people carry, but hold us back?

Why do you think people tend to accept fears that they have, without assessing or questioning them?

In what ways do you see culture using fear to control people? What is the motivation behind this? What effect does it have on our identity?

Do you think the Church has a God fearing culture, what do you think this means and looks like?

Read Acts 5:1-11

- When referring to God we can split his character, we often refer to the 'God of the Old Testament' and expect him to behave in this way, how does this story make you feel?
- How does fearing God effect the way you might live? How do we hold the tension of a powerful God to be feared and a forgiving God of love?

When we forget who our God is he can become too small and too weak, at this point our fears can become bigger than our God. How do we position ourselves so that we keep a healthy perspective on our God and our fears?

What would you say is your greatest fear that holds you captive?

What is one thing that you could do this week, to take a step out of the captivity of your fear?

Split into smaller groups and pray for each other, also commit to pray for the other people in that small group throughout the following week.