

FEAR ITSELF

THE NATURE OF FEAR – 2 TIMOTHY 1:1–8

Message Reflection Guide

Fear is a primal emotion so powerful that it can wreak havoc on our hearts. The question is, What do we do with our fears? Do we wallow in the mire of fear, act as if we have no fear, attempt to hide our fear, or try to face our fears with sheer tenacity? Or do we turn to the Lord? Only when we turn to the Lord do we hear Him say, “Do not fear.” However, the Lord commands us not to fear not so that we might ignore our fears or overcome them by sheer willpower but because He has promised, “I am with you.” Because the Lord is with us, He has taught us to fear Him alone. All other fears begin to fade away only when we fear the Lord. – Dr Burk Parsons

CONVERSATION STARTER

What are some of your phobias? (Ex. Arachnophobia – fear of spiders) How have you faced that phobia?

GETTING INTO THE SCRIPTURES

Pastor Jason said: “Understanding the nature of fear will help us to discern the difference between a spirit of fear and the emotion of fear.” What misunderstandings about fear do you think are common within the church? How can an inaccurate view of fear impact the way we minister to others?

Fear was designed in us by God. Why did God design us to feel fear? How is it beneficial?

Fear is an opportunity to receive comfort from God. How has God comforted you during a season of fear? What anxieties do you wrestle with on a regular basis?

Fear is an opportunity to rely on the Holy Spirit. How much of an independent person are you? Describe a time that you were afraid and the Holy Spirit helped you face and have victory over that fear.

Fear is an opportunity to identify with Christ. Suffering is often painful. If we are all honest we fear pain. Yet walking through suffering can bring us into a new season of renewal just as Jesus suffered, died then was resurrected. How have you experienced renewal after a season of suffering?

MAKING IT REAL

Fear is not always sinful or wrong. Fear can cause you to run to sin or run to God. How are you responding to seasons of fear in your life? What fear(s) do you need to let go of and trust God for His will to be done?