



# HIGH NOON

## The Fear Factor

#nphighnoon

Week 5

5 of 5

May 26, 2019

**Bottom Line:** Fear of people makes conflict unresolvable; trusting submission to God brings peace.

**Icebreaker:** Who or what scared you the most when you were a kid, 10 or under? Who or what scares you most today? Why?

**Key Verse:** *The fear of man is a snare. But whoever trusts in and puts his confidence in the Lord will be exalted and safe.* Proverbs 29:25

Doing the right thing is seldom popular; therefore, doing the right thing often brings conflict to the surface. Because we know that, we often avoid conflict and sweep vital issues under the rug. We can be so easily intimidated by others. We hate conflict, we want everyone to like us, no one to be angry with us, and the entire world to think well of us. We crave the approval of others. We are full of insecurity. But courageously handling conflict is an opportunity to honor God, serve others, and grow myself.

While the fear of people will erode my courage and trap me, there is a way of safety and peace, and it is the way of listening to and trusting God. I must choose to seek the approval of God rather than the approval of people. The person to whom we ascribe authority to define who we are, what we're worth, what we should do, and how we should do it is the person we fear the most, because it is the person whose approval we want most. We obey the one we fear. That is why the Bible urges us to fear the Lord.

All through His life Jesus came up against people who disagreed with Him and looked down on Him. But He didn't let insecurity cause him to back away from necessary conflict. He humbled Himself in trust to His Father and overcame whatever resistance was in Him to standing for what was right. Like Jesus, I am only obligated to LOVE people, not NEED them. Safety, security, and peace are found in trusting the Lord. When I trust the Lord and submit to His wisdom, I exhibit a healthy fear of God. I will never be too fragile to handle conflict because God is holding me together. When I live in His love, I can have the difficult conversations. When I know that I am accepted, loved, valued, and forgiven, I can accept grace and extend grace because I am free of the fear of man.

### THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

"Fear of man is a morbid concern about what other men may think about you, say about you, or do to you." How have you experienced that?

"The only secure thing in time and eternity is the Lord Jesus and His unchanging Word." Think of an experience in the last 30 days that has caused you to consider that.

How can conflict possibly be a way to honor God, serve others, and grow yourself? Do you have a personal example of how it has been so in your life?

"I am obligated to LOVE people, not NEED them." Reflect. Discuss. If that was my attitude, how would it change my attitude toward conflict?

"When we see people big and God small, we have lost our way." When are you most likely to fall to that perspective?

### LOOK IT OVER <<<

"People-pleasers are two faced. They avoid conflict instead of being truthful, courageous, and living consistently." Reflect. How have you experienced this in yourself? In others?

Love is the only thing that can drive out fear. Fear is overcome by love. When has love caused you to overcome fear in your life or relationships?

Are you ever afraid to tell the truth or have the difficult conversations because of the consequences? How do you get through it?

The evidence of surrender and submission to God includes humility, vulnerability, generosity, contentment, patience, and genuineness. Which of these do you believe are most present in you? Which need the most growth?

God see me as accepted, forgiven, valuable, and complete. Realizing this changes me. How?

# NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Identify the fears and wrong beliefs that trap me.
- 2) Study God's opinion of me in contrast to my wrong beliefs.
- 3) Memorize Hebrews 13:6 and say it daily: *"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"*  
Hebrews 13:6

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Fear of people makes conflict unresolvable; trusting submission to God brings peace.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: 1 John 4:18

Tuesday: Matthew 10:28

Wednesday: Job 11:13-18

Thursday: Colossians 2:10

Friday: Hebrews 13:6

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***  
*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*