



FEAR NOT

Fear Not, Shepherds

#npfearnot

Week 2
2 of 4
December 10, 2017

Bottom Line: Fear NOT, you are important.

Icebreaker: What is your personal favorite Christmas tradition? Who started it?

Key Verse: *That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. Luke 2:8-10*

Fear was the unifying emotion for the people around the manger. The shepherds were overcome with fear at the announcement that the Savior was born. The announcement interrupted the dark night, and immediately announced change. It was the change for which they had been praying for years, but the announcement was sudden and terrified them.

Fear is a condition of the heart and mind. It is debilitating. It robs you of energy. It distorts how you see things and disrupts your ability to make wise decisions. Fear is the result of giving your attention to the wrong thing. It is the result of misplaced and misdirected focus. If you give your attention to, think about, and focus on something that you are afraid of, then you will experience fear. And the longer you fixate on the negative thing, the more intense and debilitating the fear.

The shepherds were able to beat their fear because they got up and obeyed. They chose courage over fear, they trusted the word from God over their fickle emotions, and they risked their security to investigate this new thing that had come to pass. God rewarded their courage with more than they could ever dream. They were privileged to be the first witnesses to the Messiah, and also the first messengers to the word of His birth. The interruptions in your life that scare you may turn out to be the best things that happen to you—God's greatest opportunities.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most specifically from the weekend message?

Discuss: "Fear is the result of giving your attention to the wrong thing . . . In many ways, fear is mismanagement of the imagination." How has that been true in your life?

Discuss: "Fear is frequently the only thing standing between the life you're enduring and the thriving life you are destined to live . . . Any fear that keeps you from reaching for the good desires of your heart is a bad fear."

Discuss: "God's love casts out fear; it helps us focus on what needs to be done, not how we feel." How have you experienced the truth of this statement?

Discuss: "God's love motivates you to solve problems, not worry about them."

LOOK IT OVER <<<

Dwight said that crisis is both danger and opportunity. What do you suppose tips the scales in such a situation?

When we are personally involved in a situation where our desires or our fears are great, our emotions tend to speak louder than anything else. What helps you settle yourself enough to hear God's truth?

God invited the shepherds to investigate the announcement and find truth for themselves. That is the timeless invitation to all of us. This year as the Messiah comes again into your life, what about Christmas is an interruption to you? What can you do to accept the invitation to investigate God's truth for yourself?

NEXT STEPS

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

1. Think of someone who has had sudden change, and experiences fear because of it.
2. Pray and strategize together to bring “tidings of comfort and joy” to this person or family.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Fear NOT, you are important.

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:

Monday: Luke 2:8-20

Tuesday: John 14:27

Wednesday: 2 Timothy 1:7

Thursday: Luke 19:26

Friday: James 1:17

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)