

Out of the Darkness - Discussion Questions

Week 2: Perfect Love drives out Fear

Series Big Idea: Walking with Jesus means choosing to walk in the light, and Jesus wants to overcome every part of our lives where darkness tries to have a hold on us.

Sermon Big Idea: To overcome fear we must encounter God's perfect love.

Scripture Passages

- **John 8:12** - Jesus is the light of the world that leads to life.
- **Isaiah 43:5** - God speaking to his people through the prophet Isaiah.
- **1 John 4:15-19** - Perfect love drives out fear.
- **Psalms 33:8** - One of David's songs of praise that describes a response of reverence and awe to God.
- **God's Immanence:** how close He is to us, His goodness, and His tender love for us
 - **Philippians 2:5-8** - Paul describes how Jesus gave up his divine privileges to be with humanity during his ministry on earth.
 - **Psalms 34:17-18** - David writes about how close (immanent) God is during his times of need in a song of praise.
- **God's Transcendence:** how powerful and strong God is
 - **Job 38:1-18** - God challenges Job with a display of his might and power (for Job's response, read **Job 40:1-5**).
 - **Colossians 1:15-17** - Paul describes how Christ is the visible expression of God, and how God holds all creation together.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Do you have a time in your life where you had to overcome a fear? Briefly share about that experience with your group.
2. Dr. Rob Reimer (author of *River Dwellers* and *Soul Care*), often says "we have exactly as much of God as we ask for." Which fear that we talked about on Sunday is holding you back from asking for more of God?
3. Read **Phil 2:5-8** and **Psalms 34:17-18**. Have you ever had a time or event in your life where God's presence felt extremely close to you? (God's immanent presence)
4. Read **Job 38:1-18** and **Col 1:15-17**. Have you ever had a time or event in your life where you were overwhelmed by the power and awesomeness of God? (God's transcendent presence)
5. Which aspect of God's presence to you tend to desire more? His immanence or his transcendence? What could help you discover the other one?
6. Have you ever specifically prayed for more of God's presence in your life so that your fear will be driven out by God's perfect love? Spend time praying for each other to experience God's immanent **and** transcendent presence.