

Adult Group Study Guide for September 13, 2020

Message: "Fear is for the Birds"

Luke 12:4-7

Goal: To learn how to surrender our fears to God.

Key Verse: *Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.* – Luke 12:7

1. Fear and anxiety are powerful emotions that can make life miserable. Make a list of the fears or anxieties that have at the present time. Narrow that list down to the top five you face. What methods are you using to fight your fears and anxiety?
2. Read Luke 12:4. Jesus talks about one of the greatest fears we face – the fear of dying a violent death, and then tells us not to be afraid of it. Pastor Vern uses the illustration of Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch Christian who helped Jews during the Holocaust, as a person who was able to conquer the fear of death. How can the faith of others who have faced far more difficulty than we have help us deal with our own fears?
3. Read Luke 12:5. Who does Jesus tell us we should fear? (Hint: It is not Satan!) Why does Jesus tell us that we should fear God? How does the fear of God help us to face our other fears and find our way in life? (Proverbs 1:7; 14:26-27; Ecclesiastes 12:13)
4. Read Psalm 33:8-9; Deuteronomy 10:12-13; Romans 8:15-17; and 1 John 4:16-18. Scripture often uses the words *reverence*, *awe*, and *respect* to describe the kind of fear that we should have for God. John goes so far as to say that "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." How would you define the appropriate "fear" that we should have for God?
5. Read Luke 12:6-7. What does Jesus teach us about God that helps us to put our fear for him in perspective? Read Matthew 6:25-34 and 10:29-31. What difference for it make when you remind yourself that God cares for you? Listen to Eclipse 6 sing their version of the hymn, *His Eye Is On The Sparrow* on You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRhgD0UtpL4> Repeat that phrase "I know he watches me" throughout your day and watch what happens.
6. Read 1 Peter 2:9 and Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1 (Google search). What is your only comfort in life and in death? Remind yourself that not only do you belong to Jesus, but you are also part of a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God's special possession and nothing can separate you from God's love. (Romans 8:38-39)