

Week Seven: Half-Hearted Fear

Leader Meeting Outline

Group Begins

- (Welcome group members)
- This week we are reviewing chapter 7, which discussed our often waning fear of the Lord, and the difficulty we have in humbly surrendering to his lordship.
- Let's read the quote from preacher Charles Spurgeon at the beginning of the chapter and then we'll pray.
- (Read Charles Spurgeon quote on pg. 58 of *Clean Home, Messy Heart*)
- (Lead group in opening prayer)

Chapter 7 Group Review

Opening Questions

- How did you relate to the opening story of this chapter?
- Would someone please share a part in the "Messiness of Disrespect" section that really spoke to them?

Washing with the Word Reflections

- This section opens with a couple of Scripture verses that are very powerful reminders of God's authority. Let's start by reading those together. Turn to Isaiah 46:10 and then Proverbs 16:5.
- (Turn bibles to Isaiah 46:10 and Proverbs 16:5 and assign two group members to read aloud)
- As we are sitting here now, these verses may not threaten our pride, but what if we were to remember them in the middle of an argument or as we are complaining about a circumstance we're in? Let's briefly discuss that.
- Now let's turn to Job 40:8-9 and hear God challenge our hearts!
- (Have a group member read Job 40:8-9 aloud to group)
- What are some parts in this section that convicted or encouraged you?
- How do you think the cross challenges our ideas about God's fairness?
- Let's turn our bibles now to Psalm 25:14
- (Have a group member read Psalm 25:14 aloud)
- Explain how the grace of the cross now allows us to be called friends of God.
- Let's read a few Scriptures from Romans to see how our *fear of* and *friendship with* God encourages our messy hearts. Let's read Romans 8:28 and 8:31 together.
- (Have two members each read one Scripture aloud to group)
- How does being a friend of God give us the trust and endurance to overcome temptations to rebel against God's authority in our lives?
- Is there anything else that stood out to you in this section?
- Now let's move on to 1 Samuel 12:24.

- *(Read 1 Samuel 12:24 aloud to group)*
- Why do you think reflecting upon the things God has done for us increases our reverence and our desire to be faithful to his authority?
- Let's read 2 Timothy 2:12–13 to watch grace and perseverance comingle to give us hope in our battle to humbly surrender to God's sovereignty.
- *(Have a group member read 2 Timothy 2:12–13)*
- The author writes, "Learning to humble ourselves to the Lord's authority means we do so by faith, confident we aren't bowing down to a tyrant who rules by fear, but rather a Father who leads through love." How do you think this confidence can transform our hearts to be increasingly more faithful to God's calling in our lives?

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Study Reflection

- This reflection had us look up three Scriptures that referenced the "fear of the Lord". Let's each read what we found by reading aloud our responses, as well as share a brief comment about how you were convicted and/or encouraged by the Scriptures you selected.

Scripture Memorization

- Now let's test ourselves on this week's memory verse.

Prayer

- This week's prayer prompt asked us to consider something we are currently wrestling the Lord over. As you took the time to reflect and pray about this issue, what did you discover? Would anyone like to share something they wrote? Did anyone have any trouble seeing an area in their life where they are rejecting God's authority?

Reflection Journal Users: You may or may not choose to review the 5 Scriptures from this week's reflection journal. If you would like to, take turns reading the verses aloud and discuss how the Spirit convicted and/or encouraged them through their reflection journaling time.

Group Ends

- *(Conclude meeting by asking for prayer requests and prayer reports. Then lead group in closing prayer.)*