

Hope City

Discussion Guide

June 14, 2026

I'm Bringing Reverence Back

Fear of God: Week 2

Pastor Jackie Groves

Main Idea

When many people hear the phrase “fear of God,” they picture a distant, angry God who is waiting for them to fail. But Scripture paints a very different picture. While there is a fear rooted in guilt, shame, and punishment, the fear of the Lord that believers are called to embrace is one of reverence, awe, honor, and deep respect. Through Jesus, we are no longer slaves living in fear—we are adopted sons and daughters who call God “Abba, Father.” As we grow in our understanding of who God truly is, our reverence for Him shapes how we view His Word, how we trust His promises, and how we live our lives. This week, we’ll explore how a healthy fear of God is not about being afraid of Him, but about living in awe of Him.

Achor Verse: *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”* (Proverbs 9:10, NIV).

Read: 2 Corinthians 7:1

1. The Fear of God Looks Like WISDOM in Your Life

The fear of God produces wisdom that brings peace, confidence, and steady trust in the middle of life's challenges. As our reverence for God grows, we become less controlled by the opinions of others, fear of failure, or difficult circumstances, and more anchored in the safety and faithfulness of God.

Scripture: James 3:17, Hebrews 13:6, and Proverbs 29:25

Discussion: In what areas of your life are you most tempted to fear people, opinions, circumstances, or failure, and how might a greater reverence for God change the way you respond? Can you share a time when trusting God's wisdom brought peace or confidence during a difficult situation? What did that experience teach you about God's faithfulness?

2. The Fear of God Brings UNDERSTANDING to Your Life

The fear of God gives us a deeper understanding of His kindness, grace, and faithfulness, which transforms the way we live. As we grow closer to Him and see Him more clearly, our hearts are moved toward obedience, allowing our lives to reflect the hope and redemption we have received in Christ.

Scripture: Romans 2:4 and Psalm 119:34

Discussion: How has a deeper understanding of God's kindness, patience, and grace influenced the way you follow Him and respond to His leading? What distractions, circumstances, or fears tend to draw your focus away from God, and what practical steps can help you keep your eyes on Him and walk in obedience?

3. The Fear of God Pulls HOLINESS Out of Your Life

The fear of God produces a life of holiness by drawing us closer to God's character and shaping our daily choices to reflect Him. As our reverence for God grows, we become more committed to honoring Him through purity, humility, obedience, and faithfulness in every season of life.

Scripture: 1 John 3:3, 1 Peter 1:15-16, 2 Corinthians 6:16 & 7:1, Genesis 42:18, and James 3:13

Discussion: Looking at Joseph's life, which situation do you relate to most right now—facing rejection, temptation, success, disappointment, or the need to forgive—and how can reverence for God guide your response? Holiness means being set apart and reflecting God's character in everyday life. What is one area of your life where God may be inviting you to become more like Christ, and what would taking a practical step of obedience look like this week?

Daily reverence for God means less daily worry about everything else.

SUMMARY

The fear of God is not a fearful expectation of punishment, but a deep reverence, awe, and respect for who God is and what He has done for us through Christ. When we live with a healthy fear of God, it produces wisdom that frees us from the fear of people and circumstances, understanding that leads us to joyful obedience, and holiness that reflects God's character in our daily lives. Like Joseph, we learn to honor God in every season—through temptation, success, suffering, and forgiveness—because reverence for God is not merely something we believe, but something we live. As we draw closer to Him, our trust deepens, our obedience grows, and our lives become a testimony to His goodness, grace, and transforming power.

CALL TO ACTION

Choose Reverence Over Worry: When you feel anxious about people's opinions, circumstances, or outcomes this week, pause and pray, "God, I trust You more than I fear this situation," and intentionally place your confidence in Him.

Take One Step of Obedience: Ask God to reveal one area where He is calling you to obey Him more fully, then take a practical step this week—whether it's forgiving someone, serving, sharing your faith, spending time in His Word, or addressing a habit that needs to change.

Reflect God's Character Daily: Each day, look for one opportunity to demonstrate Christ's holiness through your actions by showing kindness, extending grace, choosing integrity, or responding to a difficult situation in a way that honors God.

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Fear or Reverence?

Go around the circle and ask each person:

"What's one thing you were afraid of as a child, and what's one thing you deeply respect today?"

After everyone shares, ask:

"Which of those two emotions has had a greater impact on the decisions you've made in life?"

Transition:

"Tonight we're talking about the fear of God—not a fearful terror, but a reverence and awe that shapes our wisdom, understanding, and actions. Let's explore what that looks like in our everyday lives."