

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.*

## God: Discover His Character

Oct 2018

### Lesson 14 – A Healthy Fear of God

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Why do we cringe when we see children disrespecting their parents?

#### **OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION**

##### **Read Matt 8:23-34**

1. Why were the disciples afraid of the storm?
2. Even though Jesus wasn't a sailor or fisherman, why did they turn to Him?
3. What was their impressions of Jesus after He calmed the storm?
4. Why did people fear the demon possessed men?
5. Why did the demoniacs approach Jesus? What healthy fear did they have of Jesus?
6. Why do the demons seem to have a healthier view of God than us?
7. What impact did the demoniacs' "obedience" to Jesus have on the disciples? On the pig herders? On the town people? On us?

##### **Read Acts 4:32 - 5:11**

8. Why did Ananias and Sapphira sell their property and lay the money at the apostle's feet?
9. What was their sin?
10. Why did they think they could get away with their lie?
11. What impact did their dramatic end have on the rest of the people?
12. Why don't people doing this sort of thing (hypocrisy) today meet the same sensational end?
13. How might a healthy fear of God be useful to Him?
14. How might the church be different with a healthy fear of God?

#### **APPLICATION**

- How can we cultivate a proper fear of God that causes us to draw back from sin and draw closer to God? see article
- How have we become too familiar with God? What would God have to do to make us have a "reverential awe" of Him?

**We often think of fear in negative terms, as a non-productive or even counter-productive force. In truth, fear may be very positive and productive. Peter speaks in 1 Pet 1:17-21 about the “fear” which should characterize Christians. We find the principle command in verse 17: “Conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay upon earth”.**

**Certainly the fear of God is not characteristic of a pagan culture. Sadly, all too often a proper fear of God is not a prominent part of the Christian’s life either. Fear is viewed as harmful by our culture. Children have no fear of their parents. Citizens have no fear of lawful authorities. And yet Peter tells us to live out our lives in fear. Surely this kind of fear does not come naturally for us or for Peter.**

By Robert Deffinbaugh