

READ: Prov. 1:7, Ecc.12:13-14, Ps. 103:10-12, Prov. 15:9, 1 Cor. 1:10, 2 Cor.9:7, Eph. 4:25-27, Ps.133

OPEN & BIG IDEA:

- What are you excited about for your Connection Group this semester?
- How do you define 'fear'? Do you have any fears?
- What comes to your mind when you hear "the Fear of God?"
- Big Idea: Those who Fear God will: 1) Love what God loves 2) Hate what God hates 3) Live as if we will stand before God and give an account.

DIG:

Proverbs 1:7 & Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

- In the Old Testament section of the Bible, called Wisdom Literature, Solomon writes about the beginning of wisdom, "The Fear of the Lord," in Proverbs 1:7. Unpack the Biblical understanding of the Fear of the Lord as a group.
- How does a Holy Fear of God draw us closer to Him instead of repelling us from Him?
- Consider these traits of the Fear of the Lord, as mentioned in the sermon: "to be in awe of God, to hallow Him, to esteem, honor and adore Him, to love what God loves, to hate what God hates, living in obedience." Which traits impact your understanding of the Fear of the Lord and why?
- In Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, the author concludes that wisdom and contentment come by "fearing God and keep His commandments" and realizing that "we will all stand before God one day in judgment."

Psalms 103:10-13

- Talk about the character of God in this passage. What is God like?
- What are the things that God loves? Discuss & unpack each of these points from the sermon as a group.
 - 1) God loves those who Fear Him. (Psalm 103:10-13)
 - 2) God loves a Cheerful Giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)
 - 3) God loves People. His Church. You. (1 John 4:10-11, John 3:16-17, Eph. 4:25-27, John 15:13)
 - 4) God loves Unity. (Psalm 133, 1 Cor. 1:10)
 - 5) God loves Obedience. (John 14:21)

REFLECT:

- Reflect as a group on this quote: "We must fear God out of love, not love Him out of fear." - Francis DeSales
- Read Acts 9:31. What was going on in the early Church due to the Fear of the Lord?
- Consider how much God loves you, as stated in Psalm 103:12, "He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west." How great is the love of God the Father for His Children?
- How has the Holy Spirit illuminated or shown you something to apply to your faith this week?

VISION OPPS:

- Overflow Women's Conference – This year's theme is "Hearts of Devotion"
Sunday, October 1, 5-8 pm at the WO Campus; sign up at the Connection Point or online. Cost is \$25

Men Serving at Overflow

- We want to create an environment where every woman can experience God during the conference, and we need your help to make this happen! We have several opportunities available for men to serve at the Overflow Conference. Sign up at the link below:

<https://bridgecity.fellowshiponego.com/external/form/7e151725-e266-4741-b949-1de1b9177789>

- Men's Conference: Overcomer - November 2-4
God has put it in the hearts of men to be overcomers; men who don't run alone, but run with brothers. They are a Band of Brothers - tribe joined together to see the Church triumphant. Register at nrpastors.com