

WEST RIDGE GROUPS

Group Member Discussion Guide

Week of January 26, 2025

CHECK-IN (~20 minutes)

How was your week? What was the high part of your week? What was the low part of your week? What can we celebrate together?

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week, we continued our message series *Renew*. In the message, Pastor Brian taught on the fear of God, emphasizing it as a profound reverence and awe rather than terror. He explained that fearing God is about recognizing His holiness, power, and justice while being drawn to His love, grace, and mercy. This fear inspires obedience, deepens intimacy with God, and brings wisdom, security, and freedom from other fears. Pastor Brian helped us to understand how a healthy fear of God transforms our hearts, purifies our motives, and calls us into a life of worship and obedience.

GROUP DISCUSSION (~50 minutes)

1. Thinking back to the message this week, was there anything that challenged you personally? Share your thoughts with the group.

2. *Read Proverbs 1:7*

Why do you think fear of the Lord is described as the beginning of knowledge?

3. *Read Isaiah 41:10*

Paul David Tripp said, "Only when the grander fear of God rules your heart will you be free of the little fears in life that chip away at your heart." What "little fears" are you currently battling, and how might cultivating a fear of God help you overcome them?

4. *Read Psalm 33:8*

How does reverence for God shape your worship and daily life? Can you recall a time when you felt drawn closer to God because of His holiness or power?

5. *Read Philippians 2:12-13*

In his message, Pastor Brian said, “We don’t fear Him because He’s going to strike us dead; we fear Him because He chooses not to, out of love and compassion for us.” How does understanding God's grace and mercy deepen your awe and reverence for Him? How do the verses in Philippians connect fear of God with obedience and God’s work in us?

WRAP-UP (~10 minutes)

It is important to be growing in our relationship with Jesus and one another - what is one next step you can take this week to grow? Share with the group and commit to holding one another accountable.

What does it look like to hold each other accountable? It can be as simple as a text or phone call during the week. Hebrews 10:25 encourages us to meet regularly and to encourage one another on a regular basis.

Example: “Hey ____, you indicated in group this week that you were struggling at work with being light in a dark place. You said that your next step was to start a conversation with someone at work this week around the topic of faith. How did that go?”

PERSONAL NOTES

This week, my next step is:

This week I am going to check in on (name):

This week, my Bible reading will be (e.g. Philippians chapters 1-4):