



Personal & Group Study Guide: January 23, 2022

Message Series: The Questions Jesus Asked (Part 1)

Message Title: *Why Are You So Afraid?*

This week's question: *What role does fear play in our lives today, and what is the connection between our faith in God and the fears we face?*

Christians often think of Jesus as the guy with all the answers, but when you read the biographies of his life in the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) you will find that Jesus preferred to ask people questions. In fact, the four gospels quote Jesus asking questions over three hundred times during his three-year ministry!

Why did Jesus ask so many questions? Because his questions inspired deeper conversations among his disciples as they pursued the truth of God together. That's what The Story is all about, so with this series, we're taking a closer look at some of the questions Jesus asked.

Read Genesis 1:1-3.

How does what a person believes about what happened *in the beginning* shape how they understand the things that happen *here and now*?

If it's true that "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," and that He spoke order and light into the chaotic primordial darkness, why should that make us less afraid today?

Read Genesis 3:8-10.

What was the immediate aftereffect of Adam and Eve's first sin?

How does fear lie *to us* - and make liars *of us*?

"Fear not" is God's favorite command in the Bible. Variations of "Do not be afraid" can be found over 350 times in the Old and New Testaments. ***Why do you think God is so concerned with getting this simple message through to His people?***



Read Matthew 8:23-27.

What did Jesus say to the disciples when they woke him up? (And what did he *not* say?)

How have you seen fear change our world/country/community since the beginning of the pandemic?

On a personal level, how has fear changed your outlook, your relationships with people, and your faith in God?

If fear has been a struggle for you, it's understandable. No judgment here. But how much of that fear can you trace back to a deficit of faith?

If we believe that "In the beginning, God created..." on purpose and according to plan, and that Jesus commanded the winds and waves, *what do we have to fear?*

If you're not sure what you believe about God, what specific doubts are holding you back from putting your faith in Him? And who can you reach out to for deeper conversation about your beliefs and doubts?