

## THE ART OF NEIGHBORING:

Week 3 – The Fear Factor

October 21, 2018

Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [Genesis 3:1-10](#); [Deuteronomy 31:8](#)

REFLECT: According to Genesis 3, what is the origin of fear emotion we feel? Throughout the whole Bible God repeatedly tells us not to fear. Why do we have reason to be courageous rather than fearful?

PRACTICE: Make a list of the things your fear. Review the list and circle the ones that relate to people. Praise God that in Him we have strength and courage and ask Him to lead you into a step of faith regarding one of your fears.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: “[Be Not Afraid](#)” is a 15 minute clip from Bob Goff, author of [Love Does](#). Watch his training video at RightNowMedia and reflect on the questions that follow-

(If you do not yet have a free Right Now Media account, visit [www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia](http://www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia) to sign up.)

Day 2-

READ: [Numbers 13:25-33](#)

REFLECT: God promised to give the Israelites victory. How did they allow fear to distort this reality? How do you allow fear of people, of culture, of differences, to distort reality (that God loves you and loves each of your neighbors)?

PRACTICE: Ask God to give you eyes to see what He sees in your neighborhood and for a heart of compassion and love.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: “[You Can’t Win the Neighbor You Fear](#)” from TheGospelCoalition.com.

REFLECT: How does our current cultural and political climate contribute to your fear? In contrast what is the heart of God toward your neighbor?

Day 3-

READ: [Luke 5:27-32](#)

REFLECT: Put yourself in one of the disciple's shoes and imagine you go to dinner with Jesus and a bunch of "sinners." What kind of fear and discomfort would you experience? Why did Jesus do this (verses 31-32)?

PRACTICE: How can you take a step toward allowing Jesus to work in and through you to reach your "sick" neighbors? Remember, it is Jesus who can heal them, who will call them to repentance.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: "[Being a Neighbor Means Being a Missionary](#)" from The Gospel Coalition.

Day 4-

READ: [Matthew 28:20b](#) (the final sentence Jesus speaks)

REFLECT: What does Jesus promise in Matthew 28? How does that echo God's promise in [Deuteronomy 31:8](#)? This is a great truth of the Bible, that we who believe have the presence of God with us, in us! How would that truth transform the life of a neighbor who does not know Jesus and lives in fear?

PRACTICE: Review the list of fears you wrote down on Day 1. If God is indeed with you *always*, how does that give you moment-by-moment courage as you confront these fears?

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: "[Faith Steps: What are You Afraid of?](#)" from Cru.org.

Day 5-

READ: [Acts 1:8](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#)

REFLECT: Who is your "Jerusalem"? Draw or make a list of the neighbors around you.

PRACTICE: PRAY! Use Philippians 4 to help you- tell God what you are afraid. Tell him what you are thankful for. Tell him about the people who live around you. Ask Him for courage to be bold in His name and by His Spirit. Ask Him to use you to impact your neighborhood!

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: "[Four Reasons We Don't Share the Gospel](#)" from DesiringGod.org.

PRACTICE: Who are you meeting regularly with to encourage your faith? How can you apply these principles together? If you're interested in joining a Life Group at Grace Church, check out [www.whoisgrace.com/lifegroups](http://www.whoisgrace.com/lifegroups) to get connected!