



Life Groups 2018

NLC Life Group Through the Bible Study

Week of August 26, 2018
Sermon: Click Bait | FEAR

Life Group Schedule

15 MIN Eat, Meet & Greet

15 MIN Ice Breaker Game: **The Awards Ceremony.** **Instructions:** Give each person an opportunity to introduce themselves, stating their name, and if they were to be given an award, what would it be? For example, “most Oreos eaten in one sitting,” “most likely to burp the alphabet in a public place.” If time, let them share any story they may have that supports their award choice.

CHALLENGE: Leaders, it’s important when you’re walking through the following content and asking your group members to share, that you also are willing and able to share from your own experiences. Your authenticity will bring a level of safety and trust that your members may have never experienced before.

OPENING PRAYER

45–60 MIN Click Bait: **FEAR**

TALK IT OUT

- Q1.** We all click on interesting things. What is the funniest click-bait you’ve ever seen?

- Q2.** Do you ever feel sucked in by click-bait? Whether it was accidentally or on purpose, have you ever felt like you just clicked something that you would truly be embarrassed if it was displayed on the big screen?

- Q3.** Have you noticed how much click-bait is fear-driven? Does it draw you in? Does it affect you?

JESUS FELT FEAR BUT DIDN’T BECOME FEARFUL.

LUKE 22:39-46

- The word “agony” in verse 44 means “great fear/distress,” extreme mental and emotional anguish.
- Jesus can relate to what you’re going through, whatever stress or fear you’re either facing or keep avoiding or stuffing.
- But Jesus experienced the emotion of fear, not the decision to live in fear.

HEBREWS 4:15

CHALLENGE: Leaders, share a moment or a season where you faced or maybe even still struggle with fear or anxiety, and what has helped you overcome that.

Q4. Have you ever felt extreme fear or anxiety? Are you maybe feeling it right now? (Maybe you're even afraid to admit you feel afraid!) :)

- Satan uses fear tactics to keep us from God's will, to destroy God's call on your life.
- Remember, Jesus is not mad AT you. He is mad ABOUT you, but your perspective of God determines what fears does:
 - › If you believe God is Mean/Distant/Reactive/Explosive, you will run away from Him during fear.
 - › If your perspective is that he is Compassionate/Loving, you will run to Him.

- God sits on a Throne of Grace

HEBREWS 4:16

- Mercy verse grace: Mercy doesn't give you what you do deserve. Grace gives you what you don't deserve. If you can see Jesus accurately- you will run to him.

JESUS WAS FULLY AWARE OF REASONS TO BE AFRAID.

- When you have knowledge of something, it's harder to get past it; Jesus had reason to be afraid.
 - › 90% of what you fear will never happen, but Jesus didn't have an imaginary concern. He knew exactly what would happen to him.
- Some of you are creatively fearful: "What if..."

Q5. Have you ever wondered, "What if this happens," and then got wrapped up for a season worrying about it?

- That's called Fear of the Unknown.
- Jesus prayed, "If possible God, take this plan from me." Meaning, "If there is another way for humans to be forgiven, let's do that plan."
 - › A common false doctrine taught today is UNIVERSALISM, or Universal Reconciliation, the false sense that there are many roads that lead to heaven.
 - › If this were true, God the Father would be cruel—forcing his Son to sacrifice his life for nothing, Jesus would be a liar, and him giving up his life as a sacrifice would be worthless.
 - › Abraham, Paul and Hitler would be together in heaven, if everyone ends up saved.
 - › But there is only one way. God said there is no other way.

JOHN 14:6; ACTS 4:12

- Love casts out all Fear.

JESUS KNEW THE DESIGNER OF FEAR.

- Jesus was being attacked by a spirit of fear. Fear is not just SOMETHING, it's someone... Satan. Fear is the nature of Satan.
 - › He masquerades around like an angel of light. He is the father of confusion and the father of lies. The Bible says don't be unaware of his schemes.
 - › He tried this with Jesus during his two weakest moments: during the fast after 40 days, when he was tired and hungry, and just before the cross, when he was hurting.

LUKE 4:13

- Satan is an opportunist. When you are at you weakest is when he always tries to increase his influence.

2 TIMOTHY 1:77

- God will never motivate you our of fear. It's not his tool.

HEBREWS 2:14-15

- All fear is ultimately related to death:
 - › Fear of Spiders & Snakes: They bite you and you die.
 - › Fear of heights: You fall and you die.
- Great news: you will never experience death. You will never be in a casket. You will never be underground. The moment you close your eyes for the last time you will never be afraid again. Your last breath here is your first breath there! You will never die.
- There is such a thing as good fear: Walk up to a rattlesnake and freeze, or a car swerved into my lane.
 - › But if you remain afraid that every car will hit you, or you are afraid at the picture of a snake or even a dead snake, that's no longer good.

GOOD FEAR	BAD FEAR
• you feel protected	• you feel paralyzed, fatalistic, confused
• you feel empowered	• you feel enslaved
• feels conditional, temporary	• feels perpetual

ISAIAH 48:22

- Jesus rules by peace, because he is full of it. He's the Prince of Peace.
- Satan rules by fear, because he is full of it.
- Fear is your nerves expecting the Devil to move.
- Faith is your spirit expecting God to move.

How to defeat fear

1. ADMIT YOU ARE AFRAID.

Q6. What are you fearful of?

2. THEN BRING THAT FEAR TO THE ALTAR.

PSALM 34:4; PSALM 55:22

- **OPTIONAL PRAYER ACTIVATION:** Share the following: God can help us in our struggles and speak His truth to us where we believe lies. How do we know we are believing lies? By what we're carrying, such as shame, anger, anxiety, depression, addictive patterns, control, or what we talked about today: Fear. There is a root to these things. God wants to show you the root, and He will speak His truth into it. Truth then transforms us. How does He do this? We must first get out of the way and give Him room to move.
 - › Pray: "Jesus, we invite You to identify any fear any of us have been struggling with or are currently facing." (pause)
 - › "Ask God to show you when you felt or experienced that before. Let God show you what was happening from His perspective." (pause)
 - › "Invite the Holy Spirit to help you identify any lie you may have believed. You can quietly pray, "God, what did I believe about myself or You that made me feel afraid?" (pause)
 - › You may lead them in a prayer like this one: "Lord what do you want me to know about what I believed? Where were You in this memory and what do You want to do about it?" (pause)
 - › Continue leading them in a prayer like this one: "Lord, forgive me for believing this lie and for allowing it to shape my life. I come out of agreement with it, in Jesus' Name." Encourage them to ask Jesus to revisit the memory with them.
 - › Lastly, invite them to share what they experienced, if they want to and are comfortable with it.

TAKE PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAY OVER NEEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS