

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

TOOLS FOR CREATING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW | ROMANS 12:2

AT THE WHEEL

WHAT'S DRIVING YOU?



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Water
of Life
community church



Where did God show up?

As you see the goodness of God move in your life, use this page to write down how He's blessed you. Encourage one another and celebrate victories within and/or outside of your group meetings.

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WEEK 1: WHO'S DRIVING?

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Before sin, there was no shame, hiding, or fear, but when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they became fearful, which caused them to hide from God. Later in Scripture, in **Exodus 14**, the people of Israel experienced such large moves of God that freed them from slavery, but just before God splits the Red Sea, they forget and complain because of their fear of Pharaoh's army. Fear distorts our reality, causing us to forget God's past work, resist God's future, and looking for someone else to blame. Distrust in God makes it easy for fear to take the driver seat and shape our decisions, affecting our relationships and ourselves. God's hope for us is to shift our attention away from the threat of fear and towards the hope in Him.

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

Genesis 3:8-10 (NIV)

Exodus 14:10-14 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 Fear Throughout History

From the very beginning of Scripture, fear led people to hide and take control instead of trusting God.

- a. Where do you tend to "hide," or run away to, when you feel afraid?
- b. What would it look like to bring that area into the open with God instead of managing it yourself?

2 Fear Can Blind Us

Israel had already seen God move in Egypt, but fear caused them to forget and panic.

- a. Why do you think it's so easy to forget what God has done when we're in a stressful moment?
- b. How does remembering God change our heart in a difficult situation?

3 Coming Back to God

Moses tries to shift their attention back on God, encouraging them by saying, *"Do not be afraid. Stand still and watch the Lord rescue you."* (**Exodus 14:10-14**)

- a. Who are individuals that have reminded you of God's faithfulness?
- b. What about their character or story encourages you to stay in and remember God?

4 Fear Is Not a Good Driver

Fear can push us to try and control outcomes, fix things quickly, or blame others.

- a. When have you let fear take control and it felt like life got messier?
- b. How did this affect the way you see God and treat the people around you?

5 At the Core

At the core, fear isn't just a feeling—it shapes decisions and direction.

- a. If you're honest, what has been driving your decisions lately—fear, pressure, control, or trust?

- b. What do you want to drive your life? Is it rooted in God or ourselves?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Fear tells a deeper story about what we believe about God and ourselves, but God wants to step into our lives and help us see through His eyes.

- What fear keeps showing up in your life, and what do you think it's trying to say or protect?
- What truth about God might challenge or replace that fear?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Who's Driving—Each day this week, write down:

- Identify one moment where fear showed up (stress, anxiety, control, avoidance)
- Ask: *"What was I afraid of in that moment?"* (even ask Jesus, He can clarify)
- Pray: *"God, what am I really afraid of underneath all of this?"*
- And/Or: *"God, what's true that I'm not seeing right now?"*

Ask the Holy Spirit to show up where you are scared, teaching you His truth, so it might heal you.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Exodus 14:13-14, *"Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent."*

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.

NOTES

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WEEK 2: THE VOICE OF FEAR

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Fear rarely begins with circumstances. More often it begins with the lies we believe about God, ourselves, and the future. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus addresses anxiety directly, not by minimizing life's challenges but by exposing the faulty assumptions rooted from our fear. Jesus speaks to a group of people living under political oppression, economic uncertainty, and daily survival pressures. Yet He repeatedly invites them to examine the deeper beliefs that is causing them to worry. Fear tends to grow when we begin believing that our lives ultimately depend on our ability to control outcomes. Jesus directly challenges that belief.

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

Matthew 6:25-31 (NASB)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Fear's Voice

Fear's voice tries to shake up our security about our current circumstance and our future.

- a. What does fear usually say to you when it comes to providing well or your future?
- b. How do those thoughts affect your emotions or decisions in everyday life?

2

The Burden of Control

Jesus challenges the idea that our lives depend entirely on our own effort.

- a. Where do you feel the most pressure to "hold things together" in your life?
- b. What would it look like to start loosening your grip in that area?

3

Adding Days to Your Life

Jesus asks, "*Who can add a day to their life by worrying?*" to people who are oppressed, struggling financially, and trying to uphold their reputation.

- a. Why do you think we still worry so much, even when we know it doesn't actually fix the anything?
- b. How has worry pulled you away from Jesus and drawn your focus solely on your need? What's the danger in doing that?

4

Lilies and Sparrows

Jesus talks about God providing for the birds and the flowers, then saying, how much more will our Father provide for you.

- a. Do you have a hard time believing that God will provide for you? Why or why not?
- b. What are some ways we can really know God's heart for us and our circumstance? Do you practice these?

Seek First the Kingdom

Matthew 6 ends with Jesus telling us to “seek first His Kingdom,” trusting God will provide for us.

- a. What do you think it actually looks like, practically, to seek God first throughout our week?
- b. What’s one small step you can take this week to choose trusting Him over worry?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Our fear of provision can reveal what we believe about God’s heart for us.

- What fear keeps coming back in your life when it comes to provision or the future?
- How can we start to move into trusting Him more than trusting the voice of fear?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Finding Truth Amid Fear—Each day this week, write down:

- Identify a moment where worry showed up.
- Ask: “What is fear telling me right now?”
- Then ask God: “God, what’s the truth?”

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you know and believe truth against any lies.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:33-34, “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.

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WEEK 3: SERVANTS & MASTERS

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Fear becomes especially dangerous when it moves beyond emotion and begins shaping our decisions. King Saul's story reveals how fear can quietly replace obedience as the authority guiding our lives. Saul began his leadership with humility and promise, yet over time his concern for public approval began to outweigh his trust in God's direction. God gives Saul clear instructions regarding the Amalekites, which Saul partially obeys but ultimately compromises. When confronted by the prophet Samuel, Saul finally reveals the real motivation behind his disobedience: *"I was afraid of the people, so I did what they demanded."* His confession exposes a powerful spiritual reality. Fear of rejection and pursuing the acceptance and approval others can become a rival authority to the voice of God.

KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

1 Samuel 15:17–24 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Under Pressure

The fear of people often shows up as a pressure to be liked, accepted, or approved.

- a. Where do you feel the most pressure to meet other people's expectations?
- b. When you do feel pressure, how do you usually respond? Do you fall into pressure or not? Why?

2

Danger of Compromise

Saul didn't fully disobey—he partially obeyed, but fear of the people influenced his disobedience.

- a. When have you made a decision mainly because of how others might react? Was it at the cost of someone else? Or even yourself?
- b. What made you want that approval from others?

3

Slowing Down to Hear God

Saul admitted, *"I was afraid of the people, so I did what they demanded."*

- a. Whose voice tends to be the loudest in your decision-making—God's, others', or your own? Why?
- b. What helps you recognize when God's voice is being replaced?

4

Setting Ourselves Up for Success

Living for approval can slowly pull us away from who God is calling us to be.

- a. How has the fear of proving yourself to people affected your relationship with God or others?
- b. What do you think it costs us overtime when we let people's opinions lead us?

God invites us to live from His approval instead of chasing others.

- a. If you're honest, what has been driving your decisions lately—fear of people or trust in God?
- b. What would it look like this week to choose God's voice over people's expectations in one area?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Fear of rejection and pursuing the acceptance of others can become a rival authority to the voice of God.

- Where has this fear led you to believe lies in your own life? Where has it led you to believe lies about other people?
- How has it affected the way you live towards yourself, others, and even God?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Lead Me in Truth—Each day this week, write down:

- Identify a moment where worry showed up.
- Ask: "What is fear telling me right now?"
- Then ask God: "God, what's the truth?"

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to know and have confidence in His voice more than any voice that tells lies.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Psalms 1:1-3, *"How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers."*

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.

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WEEK 4: NOT UNDER CONTROL

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

When life feels chaotic and out of control fear naturally rises. In **Matthew 14**, the disciples are caught in a violent storm and begin to panic, questioning whether Jesus cares. Their fear is not just about the waves, but about where their truth is placed. The disciples had already had a previous experience with Jesus coming to their rescue in **Matthew 8**, reminding them that with Him they have nothing to fear, even in chaos. Later in **Matthew 14**, Peter in the moment is so moved he walks on water towards Jesus, then sinks in fear. Jesus asks, *"Why are you afraid?"* then He calms the storm. He reveals that peace is not found in the absence of storms, but in trusting the One who rules over them. When life feels unstable, fear pushes us to doubt God's care, but faith [*pistis*—trust] learns to rest in His presence and power no matter how loudly our natural self tells us to be afraid.

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

Matthew 14:22-33 (NIV)

Matthew 8:23-27 (NIV)

Isaiah 41:8-10 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

When Chaos Comes

When things feel out of control, fear can show up quickly and loudly.

- a. Where do you feel the most “out of control” in your life right now?
- b. How do you usually respond when things feel unstable or uncertain?

2

Stay in Remembrance

The disciples had already seen Jesus calm a storm, yet after walking on water, Peter still panicked because of the wind.

- a. Why do you think it’s so easy to forget the miracles God just did when new circumstances arrive?
- b. When you start to worry or stress out, what helps you calm down? How can you invite God into that to remind you He’s got you?

3

Fuller Trust in Him

When Peter sinks because of His fear, Jesus says, “*You of little faith, why did you doubt?*”

- a. What do you think Jesus intends to do by telling Peter this in **Matthew 14**, and His disciples in **Matthew 8**? What does this say about Jesus?
- b. Have you ever felt like you can relate to Peter based on your own scary circumstance?

4

Faith (*Pisitis*) Means Trust

Faith [*pisitis*—trust] is about relying on God’s character and power, even when it makes no sense.

- a. What feels most scary about this? What is comforting about this? Why or why not?
- b. What does a life of trust look like to you? Do you do this? How can you start living this out yourself?

Peace isn't a calm life—it's a calm trust in the middle of the chaos.

- a. Why do you think we often expect peace to mean that everything around us settles down?
- b. How would your perspective change if peace was more about who you're with than what you're going through?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Jesus asks a simple question that requires some reflection: *"Why are you afraid?"*

- What has taken a lot of space in your mind that causes fear?
- How have you dealt with this issue? How is God leading you *in* this?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Finding Peace in the Storm—This week:

- Think of the places you struggle to trust God with.
- Reflect on *"why?"*
- Talk to God how to come back to trust in Him.

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight where you struggle to trust Him and to give you the strength to trust in Him consistently.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 41:9-10, *"I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.

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WEEK 5: STRONG & COURAGEOUS

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Joshua is stepping into a new season without Moses, unknowing where God will lead Him. With Moses gone, the responsibility of leading his people is heavy. God gives Joshua a direction without detailed plan, but more so, God gives him a promise: *"I will be with you."* The Israelites already let fear hold them back before. Eventually, they will cross the waters that have held them back from everything they were promised by God. Joshua's story tells that courage isn't about having certainty—it's about trusting God enough to move anyway. When the future feels unclear, we do not anchor ourselves in outcomes, but in the presence and promises of God.

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

Joshua 1:1-9 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Into the Unknown

After Moses' death, God called Joshua in this new role to lead the people into the land God promised them.

- a. Have you ever stepped into something you didn't feel ready for? What was that like?
- b. What were your initial thoughts and feelings? How did you work through them?

2

God's Promises Are Enough

We don't read about Joshua's emotional experience becoming Israel's leader, but we just know God promises He will be with him and not desert him.

- a. Imagine Joshua's story: what do you do if all that you have is the voice of God to trust? What would you feel? Why or why not?
- b. How does this challenge you to approach future responsibilities without the detailed plan?

3

Fear of Not Succeeding

God tells Joseph to stay obedient to the law, not moving from it left or right, and they will prosper.

- a. Does our fear drive us to seek success more than staying in step with God? Why?
- b. Is God's version of success possibly different than ours? What do you think is God's idea of success?

4

God Is with Us

In **Joshua 1:9**, God tells Joshua, *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified or dismayed, for the Lord God will be with you wherever you go."*

- a. Where in your life do you need to hear this the most? Why?
- b. Where in your life do you believe this the most? What might help you start to believe it, if you struggle to?

Anchored to God

When the future feels unclear, we do not anchor ourselves in outcomes, but in God's promises.

- a. Where are you anchored to outcomes more than in God's promises?
- b. Why do you think God wants you to be anchored in His promises rather than fear? What does this say about Him?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: God tells Joshua, *"I will be with you wherever you go."*

- Where in your life do you feel tension between what God is asking of you and what feels safe or comfortable?
- What would taking even a small step forward in that look like this week?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Be Strong and Courageous—This week:

- Identify one fear for your future.
- Ask God: *"What truth do you want me to know here?"*

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you step into His wisdom, moving forward strength and courage.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Joshua 1:9 (NASB2020), *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not be terrified nor dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.

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Prayer Requests

Note your prayer requests and fellow small group members' prayer requests here and pray for one another throughout the week.

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