

Opening Question:

- What’s something you’re afraid of right now (serious or light)?

Transition:

- What if some fear is actually *good*? What if we are meant to **know fear so we can live with no fear?**

Big Idea:

- The early church experienced both:
 - **Awe-filled fear of God**
 - **Fearless boldness before people**
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Part 1 — KNOW FEAR (Acts 5:12–16) Read the passage together**Key Teaching Points**

- “Fear of God” ≠ terror
 - Greek: *Phobeomai / Phobos* → Awe, reverence
- Connect:
 - Book of Proverbs 9:10 — Fear of the Lord = wisdom
 - Second Epistle to Timothy 1:7 — Not a spirit of fear
 - Gospel of Matthew 10:28 — Fear God, not people

What’s happening in the text:

- God’s power is undeniable (signs & wonders)
- The church is unified
- Outsiders are cautious (fear of half-hearted commitment)
- People are still drawn in large numbers

Discussion Questions

1. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. What’s the difference between being afraid *of* God and having *awe* of God?
3. Have you lost any sense of awe or reverence toward God?
4. Why do you think outsiders respected the church but hesitated to join?
5. Do you tend to lean more toward skepticism or belief when it comes to God’s power?

Part 2 — NO FEAR (Acts 5:17–42) Read Together

Key Teaching Points

- Religious leaders (including groups like the Pharisees and Sadducees) oppose the apostles
- Apostles are jailed → miraculously freed
- God tells them: **Go back and preach publicly**
- Their response: immediate obedience

Anchor Verse:

- Acts 5:29 — “We must obey God rather than men”

Key Themes

- **Courage in discomfort Obedience over approval**
- **Boldness rooted in experience with God Suffering ≠ failure**

Discussion Questions

1. What impresses you most about the apostles' response to persecution?
2. Why do you think they went right back to the Temple after being freed?
3. Where are you tempted to obey culture instead of God?
4. What does “We must obey God rather than men” look like in your life?
5. How have you experienced God personally in a way that makes it hard to turn back?

Key Takeaway

- **When you truly KNOW God, you can live with NO fear of people.**

Reflection Questions

- Where is God calling you into something uncomfortable?
- What have you become comfortable with that once convicted you?
- Are your decisions shaped more by culture or conviction?
- Where do you need courage right now?

Prayer Focus

- **Salvation / surrender**
- **Restoring reverence (KNOW FEAR)**
- **Boldness and courage (NO FEAR)**
- **Healing (physical, emotional, spiritual)**