



Small Group Encounter

The Gist

Fear cripples. Courage cripples fear.

These antonyms will wrestle each other until the end of time. Of this we can be sure. However, some of us live a life of constant irony in this way: we fear the One we should trust the most – God himself.

Scripture mentions several times that we should maintain a “fear” of the Lord. This is a respectful, holy reverence of who God is in light of who we are. This is healthy, good and Biblical.

But there is another kind of fear out there. This kind of fear – when our natural fight or flight mechanism kicks in – results in us running. The realization that the God of creation knows us more intimately than anyone else can be a staggering truth to bear.

Nowhere to run, nowhere to hide.

Our deepest secrets, our sickest thoughts, our worst deeds, our most selfish actions...all lay bare before someone who has never made a single mistake – ever. Trusting this person might prove daunting for even the most righteous ones among us.

This series delves into the truths of Psalm 139. Early on we meet David – shepherd David, warrior David, David the King...David the failure. Yet, God gave this guy a moniker that no other human being would ever have the honor of being called; *man after God's own heart*.

David had every reason to fear God knowing his *Character*, his *Thoughts*, and his *Actions*. Ultimately, however, he would discover an overwhelming peace that comes in owning the fact that God knows us – and loves us...in spite of us.

This acceptance takes courage – courage that cripples fear.