

REACHING OUT

March 29, 2020

Fear of reaching out traps us in our “shelters”

Fear began right after the very first sin, and we have desperately tried to hide ourselves ever since. While we *should* protect ourselves and others as much as we can, many of our “shelters” become traps and prisons that make things worse.

Genesis 3, 12, 20 & 26

Great shelters require strong foundations

God longs for us to build our lives around Him and what He reveals to us. Jesus made this clear and warned us that the storms of life reveal what we really believe and value most.

Deuteronomy 5:29, Proverbs 9:10, Matthew 7:24-27, Luke 12:1-5

Jesus taught and commanded us to reach out

Jesus compared God’s love for non-believers to a shepherd risking everything to find a lost sheep and a woman relentlessly searching for a lost coin until she finds it—and His parting words were a command to reach out.

Luke 15, Matthew 28:18-20

We must follow the example of the early church

The first believers were devoted to God, to each other, and to reaching out by sharing food, money, and time; this was part of the Good News. The only fears they spoke of were fear of God and fear of ineffectiveness.

Acts 2:37-47, 4:23-36, 5:11, 40-42, 2 Corinthians 11:23-30

Philippians 2:12, Galatians 4:11, 1 Peter 1:17-25

Fear of not reaching out sets us free to truly live

Fear is driven out and we are made perfect in God’s eyes when we reach out in love the way Christ reached out to us. This includes speaking the truth in love, sharing time and resources, praying, encouraging, and much more!

Hebrews 12:11 & 13:1-3, 1 John 4:17-19, 2 Timothy 1:7

Lord, I will...

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

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Fear of reaching out traps us in our “shelters”

Share one way you have built up wall to protect secrets.

Share one way you have chosen to risk reaching out.

Share one “shelter” that has become a trap for you.

Share one healthy way you protect yourself and others.

Genesis 3, 12, 20 & 26

Great shelters require strong foundations

Share a specific way you are building your life on Christ’s teaching.

Share a specific way God brought good out of a “storm” in your life.

Share something God is teaching you right now.

Deuteronomy 5:29, Proverbs 9:10, Matthew 7:24-27, Luke 12:1-5

Jesus taught and commanded us to reach out

Share one way you don’t reach out, even though you should.

Share one way you do reach out to others already.

Share one way you believe God wants you to reach out more.

Luke 15, Matthew 28:18-20

We must follow the example of the early church

Share some of the ways you show your devotion to God.

Share some of the ways you show your devotion to other believers.

Share one fear that limits your devotion to Christ and His body.

Share one fear that limits your ability to make new disciples.

Acts 2:37-47, 4:23-36, 5:11, 40-42, 2 Corinthians 11:23-30

Philippians 2:12, Galatians 4:11, 1 Peter 1:17-25

Fear of not reaching out sets us free to truly live

Share one way that love is driving out fear in your life.

Share one way you are loving the fear out of someone else.

Hebrews 12:11 & 13:1-3, 1 John 4:17-19, 2 Timothy 1:7

Lord, I will...