

# Connecting Church and Home

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Quarter 4, Week 9 :: **Fear and Love**

## **Treasure Story:** Deuteronomy 6

Not all fear is bad. The fear of getting run over keeps us from foolishly darting out in front of cars. Similarly, the fear of or the reverent awe and respect for God keeps us from taking His power and majesty for granted. In today's Treasure Story, we will talk about this kind of reverent and godly fear. When we reverence God and have a healthy respect for His might, we are more likely to love Him and in turn obey His commands. Nothing puts us further from sin and closer to God's blessing than obeying Him out of reverent fear and love.

## **Connect**

"To fear the Lord is to be overwhelmed with wonder before the greatness of God and his love. It means that, because of his bright holiness and magnificent love, you find him 'fearfully beautiful.' That is why the more we experience God's grace and forgiveness, the more we experience a trembling awe and wonder before the greatness of all that he is and has done for us."

- Tim Keller

It's amazing how many things we are afraid of. Yet the most important kind of fear that we are called to have comes very hard for us. If, however, we can learn to retrain our minds to think biblically, we can learn to develop the good kind of fear that is worshipful. Here are a few thoughts on how to develop a reverent fear of God:

- **Unplug from the World:** Retraining our minds to think biblically and to develop a respectful fear of God means disconnecting from worldly influences. It's shocking to stop and realize how much we are influenced by the world through television and the Internet. Pausing for a time will help us gain perspective and let God and His Word gain a greater foothold over our minds and desires.
- **Observe God's Power:** One of the greatest displays of God's majesty is going on all around us, but we are too busy to notice. Psalm 19:1-2 tells us that the heavens declare God's glory. Take some time to visit a park, the beach, or the mountains. Quietly observe what you see going on around you and talk with your children about how God designed every detail of creation. Let this be a reference point to the power and awesomeness of the God of the universe.

## **My Mission As Parent**

- We can't fear something that we don't see as being larger than us. We need to recognize how very small we are when compared with God. How do you see yourself and your life in relation to God's plan for the universe? Do you see Him at the center or yourself?
- How beneficial it is to train your children to be observers of God. Use every strategy you have at your disposal to help your children reverence God and not be consumed with worldliness and materialism.

## **Prayer Points**

- Pray for the Lord to help you see how big He is and how small you are.
- Ask the Lord to help you develop the discipline of seeing His majestic power at work all around you every day.
- Pray with your children and petition the Lord to give your family a spiritual sensitivity to reverence and love Him more than anything in this life.