



Sermon Discussion Questions

March 8, 2026

Exodus 20:18-21

Fear God

Opening Questions

1. What was your initial reaction to the idea that *"if we fear God, we live happier lives"*? How can fear of God lead to greater happiness in life?
2. Have you ever experienced a moment when you felt genuinely afraid of God's holiness or power? What prompted that feeling?

The Nature of Fear

1. Pastor Clint's sermon described the Israelites' response to God's presence through thunder, lightning, and smoke. Why do you think God chose to reveal Himself in such a terrifying way?
2. How do we reconcile the "fear of God" with passages that tell us, "perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18)? What's the difference between healthy fear and unhealthy fear?

Restoring Equilibrium

1. The Pastor mentioned that fear of God reminds us, "you are not as strong as you think you are." When have you been confronted with your own limitations? How did that affect your relationship with God?
2. How does worry demonstrate a lack of proper fear of God? What would it look like practically to replace worry with trust in God's providence?

Fear and Worship

1. Do you think modern worship has lost some element of reverence and holy fear? Why or why not?

2. The sermon mentions that "sometimes we try so hard to make it [*worship*] entertaining." How can we balance joy in worship with appropriate reverence?

Fear as Protection from Sin

1. Exodus 20:20 says God came "that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin." How does fearing God practically help us resist temptation?
2. The Pastor suggests thinking "four or five steps down the road" when tempted. Have you found this helpful? What other strategies help you remember God's holiness in moments of temptation?

The Need for a Mediator

1. The Israelites said to Moses, "You speak to us...but do not let God speak to us, lest we die" (v. 19). How does this passage point us to our need for Jesus as our mediator?
2. Verse 21 says, "Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was." How does Jesus go into the darkness for us in ways that Moses couldn't?

Personal Application

1. The sermon states: "The love of God, through the Son of God, saves us from the wrath of God." How does understanding both God's wrath and His love deepen your appreciation for the gospel?
2. Which of the five points resonated most with you personally?
 - Fear restores equilibrium
 - Fear instills worship
 - Fear prevents sin
 - Fear precedes salvation
 - Fear shows our need for a mediator