

Magnify “Love vs. Fear”

July 8-9, 2017

Community:

1. We’re already halfway through this year. Can you share one or two goals that you have for the rest of this year?
2. This past weekend Scott showed some scary microscopic creatures that live in and around us (dust mites, etc.). Are you easily creeped out by the reality of these microscopic beings?

Core:

1. **Read 1 John 4:18.** The *fear* referenced in this verse is the kind of fear that *runs away*. What are some circumstances where you’ve *run away*—out of this kind of fear? Have you experienced where this “*perfect love*” (agape love=*goodwill, benevolence*) has cast out fear?
2. **Read 1 Samuel 17:45-47.** What distinguished young David from the other skilled men in the Israelite army? Where did David say he found his strength? Where are you find yourself seeking you strength—and where is your identity found?
3. **Read Psalm 27:1.** What images come to your mind when you read, “*my light and my salvation*” and “*the stronghold of my life*”? How does this verse in Psalms make you feel?
4. What are some things in life—things your dealing with now—that you find yourself being afraid of? (i.e., *People, situations, conversations, past, future, etc.*) Do you treat those things as if they have more power than they actually do? If so, why?
5. Scott presented the truth that the only thing big enough to help us conquer our fears is the love of God. How do you differentiate attempting to conquer fears on your own versus conquering fears through the love of God? How do you typically try to conquer your fears?
6. **Read Joshua 1:9.** When you read the words “*strong and courageous*”, what some other words or descriptors that come to mind? How would you act if you *really* believed the words in this verse? Does your *strength* and *courage* line up with a life that *really* believes that...or do you often let fear stop you in your tracks?

Challenge:

Scott gave another list challenge this week. Find a piece of paper and make two lists. Title the first column: "*Fears*". List what you are afraid of right now. Write down what would happen if your worst fears came true. What would you lose?

After making the first list, read **Psalm 27** and **1 John 4:4-21**. Then, title the second column "*Love*". How have you seen God's love demonstrated for you? Who are you fighting for?