



THE RISE OF FEAR

There are no two ways about it. We have become a people, all over the world, who worry more, struggle with out-of-control anxiety, fixate on all the bad things happening around us, and can't see the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel. In short, we are succumbing to the mental and spiritual breakdown of hope. God did not do this to us. God is hope. Fear is darkness. God is light. The only thing that can overcome darkness is light.

How have your fears changed or evolved from when you were a child?

TALK ABOUT IT

Russ talked about how fear in our culture has grown in recent decades.

Where do you see fear showing up most in our society today?

What role do you think media, social media, or political messaging play in increasing fear?

Why do you think fear tends to divide people and push us into "us vs. them" thinking?

Read Luke 12:4-5.

Jesus says not to fear those who can kill the body but to fear God.

What do you think it means to "fear God" in this context?

The sermon suggested that worry is often a symptom of fear.

Where have you seen that play out in your own life?

How does remembering that God has ultimate authority change the way you think about the things that normally scare you?

APPLY IT

Read Luke 12:22-32.

Talking about worry and trust, Jesus said, "Why do you have so little faith?" (vs. 28)

What fear tends to occupy your mind the most right now?

What role does faith have in putting fear and worry in their place?

Jesus tells his followers to “seek his kingdom.”

How does focusing on God’s kingdom change the way we should think about politics, global events, our health, financial security, etc.?

What is one thing in your life that is out of whack? (Something you have given too much power and presence that does not deserve it.)

How can you change that in your life?

PRAY TOGETHER

Pray, specifically, for one another to put fear and worry in their place and build trust in God to be free.