

## Generation Fear Overcoming Fear of People

March 4, 2018 / Jeff Gunn

<sup>1</sup> *Be merciful to me, my God,  
for my enemies are in hot pursuit;  
all day long they press their attack.  
My adversaries pursue me all day long;  
in their pride many are attacking me.  
When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.  
In God, whose word I praise—  
in God I trust and am not afraid.  
What can mere mortals do to me? Psalm 56:1-4, NIV*

<sup>28</sup> *Sovereign Lord, you are God! Your covenant is trustworthy,  
and you have promised these good things to your servant.  
2 Samuel 7:28, NIV*

God is \_\_\_\_\_. When people attack and terrorize  
me, I will \_\_\_\_\_ to him.

<sup>5</sup> *All day long they twist my words;  
all their schemes are for my ruin.  
They conspire, they lurk,  
they watch my steps,  
hoping to take my life.  
Because of their wickedness do not let them escape;  
in your anger, God, bring the nations down.  
Psalm 56:5-7, NIV*

<sup>4</sup> *In your majesty ride forth victoriously  
in the cause of truth, humility and justice;  
let your right hand achieve awesome deeds...  
Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;  
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.  
Psalm 45:4, 6, NIV*

God desires \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. When people gossip  
and conspire, I will \_\_\_\_\_ my concerns to him.

<sup>8</sup> *Record my misery;  
list my tears on your scroll—  
are they not in your record?  
Then my enemies will turn back  
when I call for help.  
By this I will know that God is for me.  
In God, whose word I praise,  
in the Lord, whose word I praise—  
in God I trust and am not afraid.  
What can man do to me? Psalm 56:8-11, NIV*

<sup>16</sup> *And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.  
God is love...<sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives  
out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who  
fears is not made perfect in love. 1 John 4:16a,18, NIV*

God \_\_\_\_\_ me and is for me. When people make me feel  
miserable and broken, I'll \_\_\_\_\_ my confidence in him.

<sup>12</sup> *I am under vows to you, my God;  
I will present my thank offerings to you.  
For you have delivered me from death  
and my feet from stumbling,  
that I may walk before God  
in the light of life. Psalm 56:12-13, NIV*

*He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and  
my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues  
peoples under me. Psalm 144:2, NIV*

God is my \_\_\_\_\_. When people cause me to stumble,  
I will \_\_\_\_\_ myself to him and to \_\_\_\_\_.

### MEMORY VERSE

*In God I trust and am not afraid. What can man do to me?  
Psalm 56:11, NIV*

**My next step:** I will call to God, convey my concerns to him,  
confirm my confidence in him, and commit myself to him.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.

## Impact Group Questions

### Generation Fear – Overcoming Fear of People

#### Generation Fear

We are in a new series called Generation Fear. Professor Bill Bergman says that students are more hesitant to give answers and voice opinions in class because they are afraid they will end up on Instagram or Twitter. He calls this new generation, Generation Fear. Do you think these students' fears are legitimate?

*Break into groups of two or three.*

1. Create a working definition of the word fear.
2. Discuss whether fear is bad or good or both.
3. List 5 things you are afraid of, how rational your fear is and how it affects your life.
4. When you are done – come back as a group and share your thoughts.

#### Back to Sunday

**Read:** *Psalm 56*

What are the circumstances in which this psalm was written? (See 1 Samuel 21:10-13)

Who do you think David was more afraid of, Achish or Saul? Why?

When you think of overcoming fear or people, do you think most people are in more danger from people that they do know or don't know?

Answer the question from verse 4 and 11. What can mere mortals do to me?

Explain how David went from feelings of fear to a place of trust?

In the next steps portion of the message Pastor Jeff wrote, “*I will call to God, convey my concerns to him, confirm my confidence in him, and commit myself to him.” Work together to explain how you get use this to address and overcome a fear of a person in your life.*

#### Making an Impact

Spend the full 15 minutes identifying your neighborhood impact project.

- What will your group do?
- When will the project take place?
- What resources do you need to fulfill the project?
- What roles will the rest of the group members take? (project lead, communications lead, promotional lead, storyteller (share with church what you have done.)

#### Close with Prayer