



ANSWERS: Unit 4: Disciple of Christ

Live life as a disciple of Christ and intentionally make disciples for the glory of God.

Lesson 14 Fear the Lord

Day One Fear Defined

Read Exodus 20:18–20 and answer questions 1– 2:

When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance ¹⁹ and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.” ²⁰ Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.” Exodus 20:18–20

1. What emotion did the Israelites experience when they witnessed God’s presence on the mountain (v. 18)?

They trembled with fear.

2. Why had God revealed Himself to the people in such a powerful way (v. 20)?

God had come to test the Israelites, so that the fear of God would be with them to keep them from sinning.

Read Proverbs 2:1–5 and answer questions 3– 5:

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, ² turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding— ³ indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, ⁴ and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, ⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:1–5 (Solomon addressing his son or younger generation—symbolizing God addressing His people through Solomon’s words.)

3. What are three conditions for understanding the fear of the Lord and finding the knowledge of God (vv. 1, 3–5)?

(1) Accept God’s words: Embrace and take to heart the teachings from Scripture.

(2) Store up God's commands within your heart: Memorize and meditate on God's commands, treating them as precious treasures.

(3) Call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding: Actively seek wisdom through prayer, demonstrating a deep desire for God's guidance.

(4) Search for wisdom as for silver and hidden treasure: Pursue wisdom and understanding with diligence and persistence, valuing them as treasures.

4. What does searching for wisdom and understanding "as for silver" or "hidden treasure" imply about the value of the fear of the Lord and the knowledge of God (vv. 3–4)?

This imagery conveys that the fear of the Lord and the knowledge of God are of incomparable value. They are treasures that require intentional effort and dedication to uncover, signifying their worth and importance. Just as people devote time and energy to discover precious materials, we are called to seek wisdom (and the fear of the Lord) with the same intensity because it leads to spiritual riches and eternal significance.

5. How does the fear of the Lord connect to the knowledge of God in this passage (v. 5)? (For guidance in answering, refer to the following section: *Hebrew Literary Structure*.)

The fear of the Lord and the knowledge of God are connected. Verse 5 suggests that understanding the fear of the Lord is foundational to truly knowing God. In Hebrew literary structure, this verse uses parallelism:

- The first line ("then you will understand the fear of the LORD") indicates reverence and awe for God.
 - The second line ("and find the knowledge of God") complements the first, showing that reverence leads to a deeper, relational understanding of God.
- Together, they reveal that fearing the Lord—a posture of humility, respect, and submission—is essential for growing in knowledge of His character and will.

Read Deuteronomy 10:12–13 and answer questions 6–9:

And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,¹³ and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good? Deuteronomy 10:12–13

6. Speaking for God, Moses asks Israel to fear the Lord and provides a four-part definition of how this is to be done. List the four ways Moses describes fearing the Lord in this passage.

- (1) Walk in obedience to Him
- (2) Love Him
- (3) Serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul
- (4) Observe the Lord's commands and decrees

7. For each of the four ways Moses describes fearing the Lord, provide a short explanation of what it means and how it can be applied in daily life.

(1) Walk in obedience to Him

- Meaning: Live a life guided by God's Word and His will.
- Application: Strive to align your actions with biblical principles, making choices that reflect God's ways.

(2) Love Him

- Meaning: Cultivate a deep affection for God that is expressed through trust, devotion, and worship.
- Application: Spend time in prayer, worship, and study to grow in your relationship with God and show your love through obedience.

(3) Serve the Lord your God with all your heart and soul

- Meaning: Dedicate yourself completely to God's purposes with sincerity and passion.
- Application: Use your talents and resources to serve God and others, letting your actions reflect your wholehearted commitment.

(4) Observe the Lord's commands and decrees

- Meaning: Follow God's instructions as a demonstration of reverence and trust in His wisdom.
- Application: Study Scripture to understand God's commands and put them into practice consistently in your daily life.

8. Compare the instructions in Deuteronomy 10:12–13 to the two greatest commandments Jesus taught in Matthew 22:37–39 (See Bible). How are they similar or different?

Similarity: Both passages emphasize love and obedience to God as central to a relationship with Him. Deuteronomy focuses on fearing, loving, and serving God, which parallels Jesus' command to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind. Additionally, both highlight living out this love through actions (obedience and service).

Difference: Deuteronomy explicitly mentions observing God's specific commands and decrees, while Jesus summarizes the law in terms of love—toward God and one's neighbor. Jesus' teaching broadens the focus to relationships with others as an expression of loving God.

9. Parallelism often clarifies or reinforces a message. How does identifying parallelism in this passage deepen your understanding of what the Lord desires from His people?

Parallelism in Deuteronomy 10:12–13 connects fearing, loving, serving, and obeying God as interrelated actions. Recognizing these parallels shows that the fear of the Lord is expressed through love, devotion, and obedience. This literary structure reinforces that these actions are not separate but work together to fulfill God's desire for His people to live in relationship with Him. It highlights that fearing God involves the totality of one's life—heart, soul, and actions—dedicated to Him.

—End Day One—

Day Two

Fearing the Lord vs. Sin

Read Proverbs 28:13–14 and answer questions 10–12:

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy. ¹⁴ Blessed is the one who always trembles before God, but whoever hardens their heart falls into trouble. Proverbs 28:13–14 (Renounce means to formally give up.)

10. What is one surefire (guaranteed) way not to prosper (v. 13a)?

Concealing one's sins is a guaranteed way not to prosper, as it prevents reconciliation with God and hinders spiritual and personal growth.

11. What steps can lead to finding mercy (v. 13b)?

(1) Confessing sins: Openly acknowledging sins before God, demonstrating humility and a desire for forgiveness.

(2) Renouncing sins: Formally giving up sinful behaviors, committing to turn away from them and live in alignment with God's will.

12. What is the difference between someone who “trembles before God” and someone who “hardens their heart”? What are the outcomes for each (v. 14)?

Trembles before God:

- Description: A person who has reverence, humility, and a healthy fear of God's holiness and authority.
- Outcome: They are blessed, experiencing God's favor, guidance, and protection.

Hardens their heart:

- Description: A person who resists God's conviction, remains stubborn, and refuses to submit to His will.
- Outcome: They fall into trouble, facing spiritual separation, moral failure, and the consequences of their defiance.

Read Philippians 3:12–21 and answer questions 13– 18:

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained. ¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. Philippians 3:12–21

13. What does the apostle Paul say about *his* state of perfection (vv. 12–13)?

Paul acknowledges that he has not yet reached perfection or fully attained the goal of Christlikeness. He admits that he has not yet taken hold of everything, but he continues to pursue it.

14. What is Paul's plan of action since he has not yet been made perfect (vv. 12–14)?

Since Paul has not yet been made perfect, his plan of action is to forget what is behind him and focus on what lies ahead. He presses on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called him heavenward in Christ Jesus

15. Does Paul consider himself a mature Christian (v. 15)? Yes | No (Underline One)

16. Would you consider yourself a mature Christian? Why or why not?

Personal Answer

17. How does Paul describe those who *live as enemies of the cross of Christ* (vv. 18–19)?

Paul describes those who live as enemies of the cross of Christ as people whose destiny is destruction. Their god is their stomach (meaning they are driven by selfish desires), and their glory is in their shame. Their mindset is focused on earthly things rather than heavenly things.

18. Who brings everything under His control will transform our lowly bodies into glorious ones (vv. 20–21)?

The Lord Jesus Christ

Action Step: Active Reflection

19. Have you ever been tempted to rely on your own strength instead of God's grace? How did that affect your relationship with God and others?

Personal answer, but here are some thoughts. Biblically, we see that relying on our own strength can lead to pride and self-sufficiency, which distances us from God. Proverbs 3:5–6 reminds us to trust in the Lord and not lean on our own understanding. When we try to handle things in our own strength, we often become frustrated and disconnected from God's will, impacting our relationships with others. But when we surrender to God's grace, it fosters humility and dependence on Him, strengthening both our relationship with God and others.

20. What areas of your life reveal a tendency toward self-centeredness or withholding from others? How can you surrender those to God?

Personal answer, but here are some thoughts. Scripture teaches that selfishness can manifest in many ways, such as withholding resources, time, or love from others (Philippians 2:3–4). It's important to reflect on where this may occur in our lives. Surrendering these areas to God means recognizing the call to love others sacrificially, as Christ loved us (John 13:34–35). One way to surrender is through prayer, asking God to refine us and help us live for His glory, not our own.

21. How does the fear of the Lord shape the way you serve others, especially when it's uncomfortable or requires sacrifice?

Personal answer, but here are some thoughts. The fear of the Lord, as described in Proverbs 9:10, leads to wisdom and humility. When we understand the greatness and holiness of God, it motivates us to serve others with reverence and joy, even when it's uncomfortable or requires sacrifice. Serving with the fear of the Lord means doing so with a heart that seeks to honor God, knowing He has called us to serve others selflessly (Matthew 20:26–28).

22. Corrie's realization that her strength came from Christ, not herself, was a turning point. How can the fear of the Lord help you recognize your dependence on Him in all circumstances?

Personal answer, but here are some thoughts. The fear of the Lord teaches us that we are completely dependent on God, as stated in Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." When we fear the Lord, we acknowledge His sovereignty over our lives, which helps us recognize that we cannot do anything apart from Him (John 15:5). The fear of the Lord leads us to humility, understanding that our strength comes from Him, not from ourselves, especially in difficult circumstances. It is in this surrender that we see His power working through our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9–10).

—End Day Two—

Day Three

Obedience and Thankfulness

Read Numbers 5:5–8 and answer questions 23–25:

The LORD said to Moses, ⁶ “Say to the Israelites: ‘Any man or woman who wrongs another in any way and so is unfaithful to the LORD is guilty’ ⁷ and must confess the sin they have committed. They must make full restitution for the wrong they have done, add a fifth of the value to it and give it all to the person they have wronged. ⁸ But if that person has no close relative to whom restitution can be made for the wrong, the restitution belongs to the LORD and must be given to the priest, along with the ram with which atonement is made for the wrongdoer.

Numbers 5:5–8

23. How does God view us when we wrong another person in any way (v. 6)?

When we wrong another person, God views it as being unfaithful to Him. Sin against others is seen as sin against God, as it breaks the relationship He desires for us to have with one another and with Him. God takes seriously how we treat others because it reflects our relationship with Him.

24. In what ways might we wrong another person (v. 6)?

We can wrong another person in various ways, such as through lying, stealing, gossip, slander, betrayal, or neglecting to help when we are able. Any action that harms or dishonors another person, whether through words or deeds, is considered a wrong against them and, ultimately, against God.

25. What is the remedy for unfaithfulness to the Lord—disloyalty or untrustworthiness—in both the Old and New Testaments (vv. 7–8; see also 1 John 1:8–9; Luke 19:8)?

The remedy for unfaithfulness in the Old Testament is confession, restitution, and atonement. A person must confess their sin, make restitution to the wronged party, and offer a sacrifice to God for atonement. In the New Testament, the remedy is similar: confession of sin and repentance lead to forgiveness. 1 John 1:8–9 tells us that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us. Luke 19:8 shows a tangible example of restitution through Zacchaeus, who, after encountering Jesus, promised to repay four times what he had taken unjustly. Both in the Old and New Testaments, the response to unfaithfulness is repentance, restitution, and seeking reconciliation with both God and others.

Bible references in question #25:

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* 1 John 1:8–9

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Luke 19:8

26. Read Isaiah 11:2–3a. The fullness of the Spirit emphasizes that Jesus embodies the complete and perfect manifestation of the Holy’s Spirit’s attributes. What are the sevenfold attributes resting on the Messiah?

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. Isaiah 11:2–3a (“Rest on him” conveys the idea of the Holy Spirit fully and permanently settling upon and empowering the Messiah, Jesus.)

(1) The Spirit of the LORD – This refers to the full presence and authority of God's Spirit, empowering the Messiah in all aspects of His mission.

(2) The Spirit of wisdom – The ability to understand divine mysteries and make godly decisions.

(3) The Spirit of understanding – Deep insight into the true nature of things, particularly the things of God.

(4) The Spirit of counsel – The ability to give wise guidance and advice.

(5) The Spirit of might – Strength and power to accomplish God's will and overcome opposition.

(6) The Spirit of knowledge – An intimate understanding of God’s will and purposes.

(7) The Spirit of the fear of the LORD – A profound reverence and awe of God, leading to a life of obedience and delight in His will.

These attributes fully and perfectly characterize Jesus, demonstrating His complete dependence on and embodiment of the Holy Spirit in His earthly ministry.

27. How does Corrie and Betsie’s story inspire you to be thankful in all circumstances?

Personal Answer

28. Read Jeremiah 32:39. What is God’s promise, and how can you apply it?

I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them. Jeremiah 32:39

God promises to give His people “singleness of heart and action,” enabling them to always fear Him. As a result, everything will go well for them and for their children. This highlights a wholehearted devotion to God, which leads to obedience and the blessings that follow.

Personal answer, but this promise can be applied by seeking a unified heart with God, praying for a sincere, undivided desire to honor Him. Living with “singleness of heart and action” means aligning our thoughts and actions with His will, trusting that He will guide us and bless both us and those we influence, including future generations.

—End Day Three—

Day Four
Fearing Man

Read Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 and answer questions 29–30:

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. ¹⁴ For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. Ecclesiastes 12:13–14

29. What are two things all men and women are responsible for (v. 13)?

Fear God and keep His commandments

30. Why should we fear God and keep His commandments (vv. 13–14)?

Because this is the duty of all mankind and God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Read Galatians 2:11–12 and answer questions 31–35:

When Cephas [Peter] came to Antioch, I [Paul] opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. Galatians 2:11–12

31. Why did Peter stop eating and spending time with Gentile believers (v. 12b)?

Peter stopped eating and spending time with Gentile believers because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. These individuals likely pressured him to conform to Jewish customs, which included avoiding close association with Gentiles to maintain ceremonial purity.

32. Why do you think Peter was afraid of those belonging to the circumcision group?

We cannot be certain, but here are a few reasons Peter may have been afraid of the circumcision group:

- **Fear of criticism:** He might have feared their judgment or disapproval for not adhering to Jewish traditions.
- **Reputation:** As a prominent leader among Jewish believers, Peter may have been concerned about losing respect or influence.
- **Peer pressure:** The circumcision group held strong views on maintaining Jewish customs, creating social pressure for Peter to align with their expectations.
- **Conflict avoidance:** Peter could have been avoiding confrontation or division within the early church between Jewish and Gentile believers.

33. Did Paul fear man in this particular circumstance (v. 11)? Yes | No (Underline One)

34. Think about your own life. Who or what group do you fear and why?

Personal Answer

35. Based on your answer to question 34, what will you do about this particular fear?

Personal Answer

Read Proverbs 29:25 and answer questions 36–37:

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.
Proverbs 29:25

36. Why do you think the fear of humans can be a snare or trap?

Personal answer, but here are notes from the text: Fearing what others think of us elevates them to the place of God in our lives and wrongly empowers them. God has made us in His image and loves us with an everlasting love. But when we care too much for people's approval, we are making God's opinion secondary.

There are various ways that Satan will seek to trap and hold us captive through fear of others. He might use it to prey on our insecurities and keep us from trying anything new or different. For sure, the devil uses the fear of others to keep believers from sharing the gospel.

Other reasons the fear of humans can be a snare or trap:

- **It leads to compromise:** Fear of others' opinions or rejection can cause someone to compromise their values or faith.
- **It creates bondage:** Constant concern about pleasing others can enslave a person to their expectations, leaving little room for freedom in following God's will.
- **It distracts from God's purposes:** When we focus on human approval, we may prioritize it over obedience to God.
- **It causes anxiety:** Living in fear of people's opinions or actions can lead to worry and insecurity.

37. How can we be protected from the snare of fearing others (v. 25b)?

By trusting in the Lord

Action Steps

38. Read the false words Satan may use against us. Have you ever heard these or other kinds of false words ringing in your ears? Yes | No (Underline One)

False words that Satan may use against us:

“What will people think of you?”

“No one likes you.”

“You are stupid and can’t do anything right.”

“There is something wrong with you.”

“You are not a good person.”

Personal Answer

39. Read the following suggestions to counter Satan’s lies. What will *you* do to counter false and destructive words from Satan?

Ways to counter false words and destructive tactics Satan may use against us:

Affirm your identity in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Exercise your authority in Christ (Luke 10:19)

Pray for strength and discernment (Matthew 26:41)

Recognize the lies (John 8:44)

Refuse to listen to the lies (2 Corinthians 10:5)

Seek support from believers (Galatians 6:2)

Speak God’s truth to yourself and others (Psalm 139:14; Romans 8:37–39)

Wear the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10–18)

Personal Answer

Read Galatians 1:10 and answer questions 40–44:

Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ. Galatians 1:10

40. Whose approval should we try to win?

God

41. How does seeking God's approval free us from the fear of rejection (see Proverbs 29:25)?

Seeking God's approval frees us from the fear of rejection because when we trust in Him rather than people, we are secure in His love and value. The opinions of others no longer control us, and we can live confidently, knowing we are accepted by the One who truly matters

Bible verse in question 41.

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.
Proverbs 29:25

42. What do we learn about the cost of being a servant or disciple of Christ?

Galatians 1:10 teaches that following Christ may require us to:

- **Give up people-pleasing:** We cannot serve Him faithfully if our priority is to please others.
- **Face rejection:** Following Christ may bring criticism or disapproval, especially when our actions or beliefs conflict with worldly values.
- **Commit fully to God:** Serving Christ demands wholehearted devotion, even at the cost of human approval.

43. How can trusting in God's love help us overcome the tendency to be people-pleasers?

Trusting in God's love helps us overcome the tendency to be people-pleasers by:

- Filling our need for acceptance: God's unwavering love satisfies our deepest longing for approval, freeing us from seeking it elsewhere.
- Reinforcing our identity: Knowing we are deeply loved and valued by God gives us confidence to live boldly for Him.
- Providing strength: Trusting in God's love empowers us to stand firm in our faith, even when it means going against the crowd.

44. Can you recall a time when pleasing people conflicted with serving Christ? How did you handle it?

Personal Answer

45. Read Luke 14:11. What does Jesus say about prideful people who exalt themselves?

"For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." Luke 14:11 (Exalt means to hold oneself to a higher level of importance or honor.)

They will be humbled

Action Steps: Active Reflection

46. How can we distinguish between a healthy concern for our reputation and an unhealthy desire for approval?

Personal answer, but consider a healthy concern seeks to reflect God's character; an unhealthy desire prioritizes human approval over God's will.

47. What steps can we take to ensure our words and actions glorify God and not ourselves?

Personal answer, but consider: Pray for guidance, focus on serving others, and align our motives with God's purposes.

48. How does following Jesus' example teach us to love others without seeking their approval or compromising our focus on God?

Personal answer, but Jesus shows us that we can care for and serve others deeply without trying to win their favor or approval. By following His example, we learn to act out of love that honors God, keeping Him as our ultimate focus while still showing compassion and kindness to the people around us.

49. How can trusting in God's love free us from the need to seek admiration from others?

Personal answer, but consider God's love fulfills our need for acceptance, allowing us to live confidently without relying on human praise.

50. Prayerfully consider the various aspects of fear of humans and confess it as sin. Pray and ask God to help you to destroy the fear of man and replace it with the fear of Him in Christ Jesus. I have confessed any fear of people as sin and prayed for help: Yes | No (Underline One)

Personal Answer

51. Read and meditate on the following verses from your Bible for help in fearing God and not people (Psalm 23:4, 118:4–8; 2 Timothy 1:7–9a). How did God encourage you?

Personal Answer

—End Day Four—

Day Five

Fearing the Lord Today

51. Read Isaiah 41:10. Why are we not to fear or be dismayed (upset, worried, or agitated)?

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

Because God is with us and He is our God. He will strengthen us, help us, and uphold us with His righteous right hand.

Read Psalm 111:10 and answer questions 53–54:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. Psalm 111:10 (Precepts are laws and instruction.)

53. Where does true wisdom begin, and why is recognizing this important (v. 10a)?

True wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord, which is important because it acknowledges God as the source of true understanding and the foundation for living a righteous life.

54. What specific action demonstrates proper fear of the Lord (v. 10b)?

Following God's precepts demonstrates proper fear of the Lord, showing reverence through obedience to His laws and instructions.

55. According to Acts 9:31, how did the early church or Christians live?

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers. Acts 9:31

In the fear of the Lord.

—End of Answers Day Five and Lesson 14—

Next—Lesson 15: The Word of God, Unit 4: Disciple of Christ

Rev 12/1/2025