

Life Group Discussion Questions: Sept. 21st 2017

“From front porches to privacy fences”

Primary Scripture:

1 John 4:18 There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.

1 John 4:19 We, though, are going to love—love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first.

Secondary Scripture

Mark 4

“Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.”

9 Then Jesus said, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

Discussion Questions:

- In what ways have you seen neighborhood interaction change over the years? What’s the same? What’s different?
- Americans are becoming more isolated and fearful of their neighbors. What are the potential dangers that this has or could cause?
- Author Max Lucado writes in his book *Fearless*,
“When fear shapes our lives safety becomes our god. When safety becomes our god, we worship the risk-free life. Can the safety-lover do anything great? Can the risk-averse accomplish noble deeds? For God? For others? NO. The fear-filled cannot love deeply. Love is risky. They cannot give to the poor. Benevolence has no guarantee of return. The fear-filled cannot dream wild. No wonder Jesus wages war against fear. His most common command emerges from the “fear not” genre. The gospels list some 125 Christ-issued imperatives... 21 urge us to “not be afraid” or “Not fear” or “have courage”.”
- How have you found these words to be true?
- In what ways is fear an enemy of Neighboring?
- What fears hold you back from moving towards your neighbors.
- In what ways do the scriptures above encourage you? Challenge you? Frustrate you?