

WALLS of Fear!
A Personal and Small Group Experience

We are becoming a nation that in many ways is obsessed with being clean. In fact the last couple of years I have been hearing news reports that perhaps we are too clean. If children are raised in too clean of an environment then they do not have the opportunity to battle germs in their formative years. Without that opportunity their bodies are not strong enough to battle germs as they get older and therefore are always weak and vulnerable.

My 85 year old Dad always says that we (our family) don't have to worry about getting ecoli or some of those bacteria because our bodies are resistant! I asked "How!" He said, "Well growing up on the farm nothing was ever all that clean and manure is all around everywhere all the time so I am sure we have ingested little bits along the way so our bodies had a chance to build up resistance." In other words we could be around the germs and not be affected by them. I know that sounds like "old farmers wisdom" but the guy is going strong at 85. His dad made it to 86. His dad's dad made it to 94 and his mom made it to 101. Maybe a little manure will do you good!

What am I trying to say? Maybe our "fear" of getting sick or becoming tainted is a WALL. Perhaps there is a whole lot of life on the other side of the WALL of fear. This has a tremendous application for our spiritual lives as well.

Jesus was so confident of His own identity that He did not protect himself from all the broken tainted parts and people of the society around Him. The Pharisees did—to an extreme— but He didn't. He dove right in. Jesus came into this world and "leaked" goodness, love, wholeness, healing, truth and LIFE on everyone He came in contact with. Even to His dying breaths He was leaking love over the people who hated Him without fear that their germs were going to leak on Him in such a way that they would change Him. Jesus sends us into His world in the same way. He shakes us out onto His world like salt out of a salt-shaker.

Christians struggle with staying open to rubbing shoulders with and engaging with the people around them—especially non-Christians. The life of the Pharisee is a real temptation. Listen how Jesus leads us and "without fear" engages with His world—not worried about being tainted but desperately wanting to bring hope and life.

Spend a little time discussing this topic and all that was shared in the message!

Take a look at these stories from Jesus life and ministry! Talk about the WALLS of fear that have to be overcome to follow Jesus "all the way" and be His witnesses to all He wants us to leak on. Talk about how your life might be affected by this call and challenge this week. What is Jesus asking of you?

Mark 1:40-45, Mark 2:1-17, Mark 5:21-43, Mark 7:24-30

WALLS with our Community?

"Connecting With God" Weekly Guide

This booklet is a resource to help you "Connect with God" this week. He deeply desires ongoing personal connection with you. You are that important to Him.

This Page has some scripture verses for you to meditate on each day this week. Notice the helpful hints section – these are great things to consider when personally engaging with God through His Word.

The Center Pages contain the notes and outline for the message given on Sunday. The message is also available as an audio download from www.pointofgracechurch.org

The Back Page has a study written specifically for a small group of people (or an individual) to drill down deeper into a particular aspect of the week's theme. Small groups can review memorable points of the week's message and then work through the study concluding with a time of prayer.

Scripture & Meditation Guide - October 17-22

Helpful Hints:

- 1) Find a quiet place along with 15-20 minutes!
- 2) Focus on God for a few moments asking His Spirit to speak to your heart and offload your heart of stifling, burdens, guilt, worry etc.!
- 3) Listen to Him by reading a section of scripture then rereading it several times, dwelling on "words and phrases" which grab your heart's attention. As you read and reread keep asking God, "What do You want me to hear?" "Why this word at this time?" "How are You inviting me to respond? Keep talking it over with Him—chew!"
- 4) Pray (and journal) everything that is on your heart and mind as you are ready!

Worship Him, Bless Him, Thank Him, Ask Him, Trust Him

Notice how Jesus breaks down WALLS with the people of the world around Him!

Monday: Mark 2: 40-45

Tuesday: Mark 2:1-12

Wednesday: Mark 2:13-17

Thursday: Mark 5:21-34

Friday: Mark 5:35-43

Saturday: Mark 10:13-31