

COURAGE

LESSON 1 - "Facing the Future with Bold Faith"

JANUARY 4, 2026

WORSHIP (15 MINS)

Venue: Home gatherings

Sing one or two songs or play a song from YouTube.

Venue: Public place (school, café, park, etc.) or **Via Online**,

Testimonies: "What is your "high" or "your "low" this past week?"

Ask someone to do the opening prayer.

WELCOME (10 MINS)

Welcome guests/first-time visitors.

Ice-breaker: How do you see 2026? Are you ready to face it with a positive attitude? What makes you say so?

WORD (30-45 MINS)

Main Text: Read Proverbs 28:1, Proverbs 14:26, Hebrews 12:28-29 NKJV

Intro: The wisest man in the world King Solomon wrote Proverbs 28. He observed that the righteous, those who worship God and obey His commands are courageous like lions. A lion embodies calm confidence, acting without panic because it knows its identity. Its boldness is innate, not something it must prove. Lions being the king of the jungle often walk alone and are willing to face threats by themselves. They act decisively at the right moment and don't run from every noise or challenge, but stand firm with steady courage. To be courageous or bold like a lion, we need this virtue: **The Fear of the Lord.** "*In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence...*" Proverbs 14:26 NKJV

Q: Would you share your personal understanding of the Fear of the Lord?

The following are what the fear of God is all about based on John Bevere's book, "**The Awe of God.**"

1. Reverence and awe - To fear God is to stand in deep wonder and respect before Him. To esteem, honour, respect, and adore Him above anyone or anything else. Jesus taught His disciples to pray, "Our Father, who are in heaven, hallowed be your name." To fear God is to hallow Him. Hallow is defined as "to respect greatly."

Q: Why is it important to "hallow" God in our everyday lives?

Q: When was the last time you felt really in awe or amazed of who God is?

2. Obedience rooted in love - The fear of the Lord is not passive. It actively shows itself in obedience, doing God's will immediately and faithfully, even when it doesn't seem to make sense or is costly. "**Lord, I will trust You even when I don't understand.**"

Q: What is one area of your life where you know God is asking you to obey, but you've been hesitating to do so? Why?

Q: Can you think of a time when obeying God didn't make sense at the beginning but later on proved to be the right decision?

3. Trembling at His presence and Word - John Bevere describes holy fear as trembling before God, both in His presence and at His Word, not because we dread Him, but because we truly grasp His greatness, majesty and authority over all things. To fear God is to live in holiness before Him so that sin will not keep us from His presence.

Q: What is your understanding of "trembling" at His presence? Why do you think it is important to have that healthy grasp God's greatness?

Q: What helps you stay close to God on a daily basis instead of moving away from God when you're struggling with temptation or sin?

4. Transforms how we live - The fear of the Lord reshapes our intentions, thoughts, words, and actions. It makes us turn away from evil, embrace obedience without grumbling, and walk humbly in God's ways. So, to fear God is to love what He loves and hate what He hates. What is important to God becomes important to us.

Q: What's one habit, attitude, or behavior you feel God is asking you to change or surrender right now?

Q: What practical things do you think are important to God?

To fear God is to love Him deeply and reject sin in every form. It means hating injustice, turning away from evil in thought, word, and action, and living with integrity so that our inner motives align with our outward behavior.

The fear of the Lord produces authentic humility before God and people, leading us to give Him the worship, honor, and offerings He deserves. It compels us to obey Him eagerly and completely, even when obedience is costly or unclear. It shapes our attitude, keeping us from complaining or grumbling. It teaches us to respect and submit to God's authority—both direct and delegated—except when commanded to sin.

Ultimately, to fear God is to live in reverence and awe of His presence and His Word, valuing intimacy with Him so highly that we refuse to live in sin.

Conclusion:

The **Fear of the Lord** is one character trait that could completely change our lives. It could help us recognize God's presence, protection, and provision every day. It builds real character, real joy, and the strength we need when life gets tough. Holding onto the Fear of the Lord could help us live longer, stay healthier, succeed, stay safe, overcome lack, and leave a meaningful legacy. Does this sound almost unbelievable? Maybe, but the real question is: In our everyday lives, will we pursue the Fear of the Lord?

"The person who is scared of God has something to hide; the person who fears God has nothing to hide. It's more like saying that the person who fears God is afraid of being away from God." John Bevere

WORK (15 MINS)

Application

1. Find a partner. Ask what you can pray for him/her then pray for each other.
2. Pray and prepare a Hit List (max. of 5-10 names of family, relatives, friends, schoolmates, workmates, neighbors, etc.) of possible people you desire to invite in the next life group gathering.