

Warm-up Question or Activity

Choose one and discuss as a group.

1. Activity 1 – Lightning round – keep it fun. Close your eyes and imagine you’ve been in a foreign land for a year and are returning to Texas today. Your family or friends want to prepare for you, or take you out for, your favorite dish or meal.
 - **What meal or dish would you be craving after a year away?**
2. Question 1 – Awe is a special thing. It’s often found in the handiwork of God in Creation.
 - **Describe a place of natural wonder that was or is inspiring for you?**
 - Press through to identify a place of natural wonder.
 - Not a place of human history (Gettysburg; D-Day’s Omaha Beach).
 - Not a place of human creation (Great Wall; Machu Picchu).

Can You Relate?

This week’s Scriptures reveal for us the centrality of our relationship with God in helping us navigate the world that He created.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge....” Prov 1:7a

1. The “*fear of the Lord*” (reverent, loving awe and submission to his Word and His Lordship) is the theme of Proverbs. Let’s unpack that.
 - **What draws you into reverence, awe, love, and submission to God?**
 - This is vitally important – press through to find whether you are awed by God?
 - Some catalysts for your thoughts:

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Who He Is | What He Has Done | The Vastness of the Universe |
| His Word | His Plan in History | The Intricacy of Human Anatomy |
| The Empty Tomb | His Purpose for Me | The Blue Jewel of the Universe that is Earth |
2. Let’s drill down on the word “*beginning*” in this verse. It suggests that reverence/awe are table stakes – *i.e.*, you cannot get to “*knowledge*” for living life without first understanding the One who gave life to you.
 - **If this reverence and awe for God (and His Word and His Lordship) are so vital, why does it ebb and flow? Arrgh!!!**
 - **Describe your own experience of that awe waning and returning in your life.**
What drives the fading of awe in your life? What restores or reignites it for you?

3. Proverbs 3:6a calls for us to “*acknowledge him in all our ways*” (i.e., to be ever-mindful of Him). There are very few things that we acknowledge in all our ways.
- Truth be told, most of us are ever mindful of our cell phones. How far do you make it before you realize you left your phone behind?
 - **Contrast your mindfulness of your cell phone with your mindfulness of God.** Discuss.
 - **What would it take to make you as mindful of God as you are of your cell phone** (or your other most-mindful thing)? Here are a few catalysts for thought:
Christian music (car, office, quiet time) Outings with your small group
Christian calendars (home, office) SOAP quiet time journaling
Popcorn prayers Setting an alarm for afternoon prayer
Christian wrist band, screensaver, etc. Watching *The Chosen* or similar media
 - **If a younger friend asked you for advice based on what had worked for you, what would you say?**

Live It Out

Let's go into this week with our hearts tuned to our mindfulness of God “in all our ways” and committed to seeking out God when mindfulness wanes.

- What do you want to take away from this discussion? How can you apply or build upon it in the week or months ahead? Write it down on the paper provided.
- SOAP quiet time journaling is a good starting point for living with more intentionality. This week, consider pledging with one of us to each doing SOAP quiet time for seven days in a row, lifting one another up in prayer, and texting one another for accountability and support as we go through it.
- Praise both expresses our awe for God (*Prov. 1:7a*) and keeps us mindful of him (*Prov. 3:6a*). With these in mind, try this experiment in making every day count a little bit more.
 - **How?** At least one day this week, before you get out of bed, pick up your phone or tablet and play this version of *How Great Thou Art* by Lauren Daigle (recorded @Toyota Center in Houston) to start your day. Absorb the lyrics. Play them back in your head throughout the day. If you do not have that song on your phone, you can find it easily on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/p-hvI1nbS80>
- **Report back** next week on how that went.

Encourage one another to commit time to praying for one another, encouraging and meeting one another's needs, fellowshiping together, interceding for one another. Contact absent group members and encourage them to continue to meet and to return together at the next scheduled gathering.