

# PARALYZING FEAR, MOBILIZING FAITH

John 20.19-23 // November 14, 2021

## DISCIPLES IN HIDING

Jesus was executed, Judas has committed suicide, the city is bustling with millions of travelers, and the disciples are hiding. They are back in the upper room with the door locked, ensuring that no one can find them.

1. **The Fear of the Disciples:** They have a fear of what is coming next, of being exposed, or of persecution and even death.

All of us have fears. Ask yourself, what do you fear losing, or fear what God won't give you? Or that He might take away? Do you fear the future? Not being able to live comfortably, or have some kind of financial security? Do you fear culture and society and where it is headed? Do you fear the past? Do you fear man, or being judged? Do you fear being known? Do you fear people knowing your marriage has issues, or your kids have issues? Do you fear coming clean about sin?

## UNBELIEF AND SIN

Many of our fears are realistic, even inevitable. But we must remind ourselves of what we are called to if we are going to face those fears properly. Otherwise, we lock ourselves in the room of our fears, and we live in unbelief. And if we live there too long, our unbelief causes us to fall away and harden our hearts.

Hebrews 3.12-15

**Unbelief is the ingredient in your sin that most displeases God.**

## JESUS INTERRUPTS

2. **Jesus Goes Where He Pleases and When He Pleases:** Hiding in a locked room didn't stop Jesus from joining them. He didn't wait for them to open the door or muster up enough courage to meet Him outside.

Psalms 34.18 // Luke 24.45-49 // Psalm 27.1-4 // Psalm 139.11, 12  
Numbers 11.23 // Romans 8.31-39

We can go forward in the face of our fears because He has given us His promises *and* He has given us *the Promised* Holy Spirit. He comes to us and says "Peace be with you."

**When life closes a door, it won't stop Jesus from working in your life. Nothing can stop Him, and nothing *will* stop Him. He never stops working out His purposes in your life.**

## NOTES:

### This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

**Hebrews 12:28-29**

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

## ARE YOU NEW HERE?

### WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We'd love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

### WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our childrens' ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Amber Willis at [amber@lifemission.tv](mailto:amber@lifemission.tv)**

### JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th - 8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders stay in the service** with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email **Tyler Willis at [tyler@lifemission.tv](mailto:tyler@lifemission.tv)**.



## Contact Us

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## COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before group starts, who can share the **Memory Verse**?

Read **John 20.19-23**. What stands out in this passage and from the sermon on Sunday?

### Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

What great news it is that Jesus will meet us where we are at. What fears came to mind that you need to have the Gospel preached to, and what Gospel truths in particular can you press into those "locked rooms" in your heart and your mind?

### Your Life Mission

Jesus has put His Spirit in us and says He has sent us, just as He was sent. The task can often bring fear to us, but we should be reminded that He goes with us and before us. What relationships in your life would you like prayer for, maybe even that you are a little fearful of when it comes to sharing the Gospel?

End the evening in a time of prayer, praying through the theme of the night using the **P.R.A.Y.** model with your group. Pray for these people you have mentioned and for your heart and plan as you pursue them in love.

- **Preaching the Gospel to Yourself** (Matthew 6.9, 10)
  - Always begin your time of prayer focusing on God's goodness, who He is, and what He has done for us. Pray truths from this week's text.
- **Repent and Confess** (Matthew 6.12)
  - Real repentance begins where blame-shifting stops. Your circumstances don't need to change, your heart needs to change. Confess any particular sin that prevents you from walking out what God calls us to in the text, or any other particular sin you are wanting to fight. Ask Him to help you have strength to repent and run towards Him.
- **Ask for Provision** (Matthew 6.11-13)
  - Ask God for new perspective and for the things that you need. Once our hearts are fixed on Him, we can ask Him to help us with our needs. When your heart is begin filled with the Gospel first, your asking will be far more in line with God's desires and will. Ask Him to work in the relationships in your life that you are hoping to share God's love with.
- **Yield with Thanksgiving** (Matthew 6.10)
  - End your prayer by giving God thanks for His faithfulness and ask Him to help you trust and yield to His work and ways.



**LIFE MISSION**  
C H U R C H

**MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY,  
WHO ARE SAVED, EQUIPPED, AND SENT BY THE GOSPEL.**



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### SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School  
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

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