



# WHO DOES GOD BLESS

## The One Who Fears God

### MAIN THING

Fear of God is Where Wisdom Starts

### SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 28:14, Psalm 40:4

### ICEBREAKER

As small children, we have the ultimate trust in our parents. They are the smartest people in the world. What things were you told as a child that you later found out wasn't necessarily true? I.e. "If you keep making that face, it's going to get stuck that way", or "Don't swallow watermelon seeds, because you'll grow a melon in your belly."

### OPENING THOUGHT

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. People who live without the fear of God are people who live without thought to consequences of actions. They wind up making terrible mistakes that cost them and the people around them a lot more than they are willing to pay. But the person who lives in the fear of God realizes that accountability is coming. They live as people who will be called into the office for an accounting. They follow the way of the Lord and save themselves from so many blunders, so many mistakes, and so much pain.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. After reading Proverbs 28:14, what does the writer mean when he says, "hardens their heart?" How does this take away God's blessing? Do you find yourself falling into this at times? What makes that happen?
3. As small children, we trust our parents as the ultimate authority in all things. No one else is as smart as my mom or dad. Also, I didn't want to be punished by mom or dad. They were the ultimate authority and they were also the ultimate judge in my life. Read Psalm 40:4. How does this verse relate to that? Why should we have this kind of belief and trust in God? How do we fail at this? Where do we let "false gods" in?

### LIFE APPLICATION

Trust is something we aren't very good at these days. We tend to lean toward cynicism before trust, but with God, that can't be an option. When we fear God, that means we trust God. We know that He will do what He says He will. That means blessing and punishment. Do you trust God enough to fear Him? Do you make decisions with that in mind? Do you know that there are consequences for your actions?

### CHALLENGE

There is an old saying: "Sin will take you farther than you want to go, make you stay longer than you wanted to stay, and make you pay more than you want to pay." People without the fear of God learn this the hard way. This leads to years of climbing out of the holes we dig for ourselves, years climbing out of debt, paying for bad mistakes, trying to rebuild broken relationships, trying to recover our health. How many of you have struggled with this? Has life gotten a little out of control at times? Share with your group, and pray for each other.