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anxious pained worried misunderstood concerned nervous divorced discouraged scared childless

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Lesson One: Fear and Doubt

Complete and Keep

no purpose fought unknown failed jobless unhealthy hunger unloved

Instructions:

Please fill in the blanks, using a King James Version of the Bible. When you are done, keep this lesson book and return the completed **Review Booklet** to the address provided below. As soon as our office receives your review booklet, we will grade it and:

- 1. Send it back to you
- 2. Include the next lesson in the course



Please mail the completed review booklet to:

Plowman's Academy 575 US Highway 250 Greenwich, OH 44837

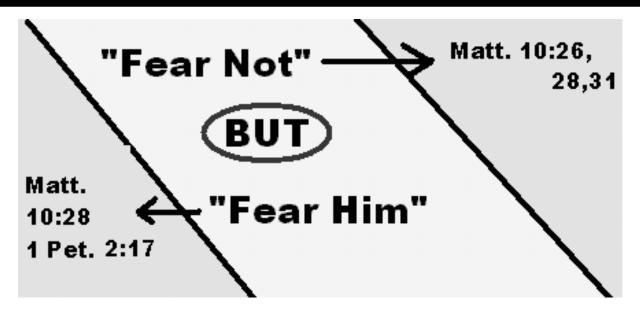
Plowman's Academy was started to provide the opportunity for teens and adults to study God's word more deeply, imitate Jesus more closely, and be more sensitive and obedient to God's Holy Spirit—all through the means of correspondence (communication by letters or mail) courses. Jesus taught us that when we set out to follow Him, we ought to do so with no regrets, no second thoughts, and no turning back. We welcome you to join us as we aim to turn from sin, surrender to God, seek Him until He rains righteousness upon us, and then follow Him faithfully and fully forever. Let us look always to Jesus and live always for eternity, for Jesus Christ is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

Thank you for joining us. An academy is a place of study or training in a specific subject or skill. At Plowman's Academy, the subject is Jesus. Put your hand to the plow and do not look back.

And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. —Luke 9:62

These notes come from the kindness and diligence of those at Middletown Bible Church in Connecticut. The lessons are designed to be used with a King James Version of the Bible.

The Problem of Fear



Multiphobias

People FEAR many things. We can easily become FEARFUL and AFRAID. Some of these fears have been classified into various kinds of "PHOBIAS." ("Phobia" comes from a Greek word meaning "fear"). For example, consider the following:

- 1. **ACROPHOBIA**—a fear of high places
- 2. CLAUSTROPHOBIA—a fear of enclosed places
- 3. **CYNOPHOBIA**—a fear of dogs
- 4. **HYDROPHOBIA**—a fear of water
- 5. **NECROPHOBIA**—a fear of death
- 6. NOCTIPHOBIA—a fear of night

FEAR is not always wrong or sinful (even as WORRY is not always wrong). God has equipped man with the capacity to FEAR for man's own protection and benefit. Though we often think of fear as a dreaded FOE, it can also be man's best FRIEND.

- Fear is that FRIEND which keeps our hands away from the tigers' cage at the zoo.
- Fear is that FRIEND that helps us to drive safely in the midst of heavy traffic.
- Fear is that FRIEND that helps us to respect and obey the police officer, lest we should get into trouble.
- Fear is that FRIEND that encourages us to study before we take a test.

Consider again the "phobias" listed above. Show how, under certain circumstances these FEARS can be helpful. (For example, "acrophobia" might help someone on top of a high ladder to proceed with much care and caution.) These same FEARS can be harmful. (Consider for example "noctiphobia" when a child imagines that he sees a monster in the dark of his room at night.)

Friend or Foe?

FEAR can be healthy or harmful. FEAR can protect us or fear can destroy us. As we shall see, the right kind of fear will eliminate every wrong kind of fear. Please complete the following MATCHING exercise as you study verses which relate to FEAR or BEING AFRAID:

A = A healthy, right kind of fear (FRIEND)

 $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A}$ harmful, wrong kind of fear (FOE)

The Origin of Fear

Matthew 14:26	1 Peter 2:17	
Matthew 14:30	Isaiah 8:12	
Matthew 2:22	Isaiah 8:13	
Genesis 22:12	Psalm 112:1	
Acts 27:17	Psalm 112:7	
Proverbs 28:1 (The word "fear" is not used here, but the idea is certainly present.)	Fsain 112.7 Mark 5:36	
Find the first place in the Bible where FEAR is mentioned (HI	INT: Begin reading in Genesis chapter 3):	
Genesis 3, verse Was this a healthy, right	• ,	
As you think about Adam's fear, put the letter "F" before ewrong kind of FEAR: 1 A direct result of man's sin and guilt	den of the following pinuses which properly describe this	
2 Running from God	U.A. 11.6)	
3 Running towards God ("cometh to God"—]	Heb. 11:0)	
4 Facing and fixing my problems5. Hiding and covering up my problems		
6. Avoiding the Lord		
7 Approaching the Lord		
8. Open and honest before God		
9. Ashamed before God, "having an evil conse	cience" (Heb. 10:22)	
10 Ever conscious of wrongdoing and of one's		
Does the believer who is hidden IN CHRIST ever need to be 22)?	afraid of approaching a HOLY GOD (Hebrews 4:16; 10:19,	

Fear Not! Why Not?

	that is the constant plea of God to those who belong to Him (see Lamentations 3:57; Isaiah 41:14; Joshua 8:1; Lul 32; Matthew 10:31; Acts 27:24; etc.)? FN
	e Lord gives us many REASONS why we need not fear. Search the Scriptures and see if you can discover some se reasons:
1.	Gen. 26:24; Psalm 23:4; Isaiah 41:10; 43:5; Jer. 46:28; Deut. 20:1 I will not fear because
2.	Exodus 14:13-14; Deut. 3:22; 20:3-4; 2 Chron. 20:15 (compare v. 17) I will not fear because
3.	Deut. 31:6, 8; 1 Chron. 28:20 I will not fear because
4.	Psalm 118:6 I will not fear because
5.	Isaiah 41:13-14 I will not fear because
6.	Isaiah 43:1 I will not fear because
7.	Deuteronomy 7:18 (also 20:1) I will not fear because
8.	Psalm 56:3,4,11; Psalm 112:7 (also Mark 5:36) I will not fear because
9.	Matthew 10:29-31 I will not fear because
10.	John 6:20 Lyvill not feer because

Understanding Who God Is Helps Us Not To Fear

1. Isaiah 41:10
I will not fear because HE IS MY
2. Genesis 15:1
I will not fear because HE IS MY
3. Proverbs 3:25-26
I will not fear because HE IS MY
4. Psalm 27:1
I will not fear because HE IS MY
5. Psalm 46:1-2
I will not fear because HE IS MY
6. Hebrews 13:6
I will not fear because HE IS MY
7. Psalm 91:2, 5
I will not fear because HE IS MY
The King of Fears
What is man's greatest fear (Heb. 2:14-15)?
Is this a legitimate fear for the UNSAVED (Heb. 9:27)?
What is even more fearful than physical death (Matt. 10:28; Rev. 21:8)?
DEATH can be described as a killer-bee (think of a giant bumblebee!) which has a powerful and deadly sting for all its victims.
What is the terrible STINGER on this killer-bee (1 Cor. 15:56; Rom. 6:23; James 1:15; Ezekiel 18:4)?
What gives this STINGER its strength and power (1 Cor. 15:56; Rom. 3:20; 7:7-13)?
The Lord Jesus, through His death and resurrection, REMOVED THE STINGER anddeath (2 Timothy 1:10).
Therefore, does the believer need to fear the KING OF FEARS, or may he bravely and joyfully face his hour of death (see 2 Tim. 4:6-8; 2 Pet. 1:13-14; Philippians 1:20-23, 2 Cor. 5:8; Luke 23:43)?

Fear and Love

And the greater of these is love!

FEAR and LOVE cannot	ot dwell together, because the	ne Bible says, "There is no	in	; but
perfect c	asteth out	, because	hath torment (1	punishment).
He that	is not made perfect in	" (1 John 4:18).		
•	bly afraid of a mouse, but she for the protection of her chi	ne would gladly risk her life aga ld whom she loves.	inst the most savage bea	st (such as a
<u> </u>		illingly fight on the hottest battler examples of how love casts out		intry and the
-	owing, decide whether each Love " on the line before each	phrase is describing FEAR or a phrase:	whether it is describing	LOVE, and
_	What can I do for	him?		
_	What will he do to	o me?		
_	How can I help hi	m?		
_	How can he harm	me?		
_	What can man do	unto me?		
_	What can I do for	man?		
_	How can I give of	f myself for him?		
_	How can I protect	myself from him?		
_	Shrinks away fror	n others		
_	Moves towards ot	hers		
_	"Believes all thing	gs" (1 Cor. 13:7)		
_	Very suspicious			
_	Thinks of everyth	ing that might go wrong		
_	"Thinketh no evil	" (1 Cor. 13:5)		
_	Concerned about	self		
_	Concerned about	God and others		
_	Produces hard wo	rk and labor (1 Thess. 1:3), tack	ling the problems at han	d.
_	Fails to fix proble	ms and refuses to face up to resp	ponsibilities	
_	Looks at the probl	lem (Matthew 14:30)		
	Looks past the pro	oblem to the God who has the so	olution	

The Fear that Conquers All Fears

What is man's supreme duty towards God (1 Peter 2:17; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Prov. 1:7; Deut. 10:12; etc.)?	
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A = FEAR THE LORD!

B = DON'T FEAR ANYTHING ELSE!

*	How long are we to do this (Prov. 23:17)?
*	How long (Deut. 14:23)?
•	How long (Josh. 4:24)?
•	When can I begin to do this (1 Kings 18:12)?
•	Who should do this (Psalm 34:9)?
•	Who (Psalm 33:8)?
*	How should we serve the Lord (Psalm 2:11)?
•	How should we worship the Lord (Psalm 5:7)?
*	How should we spend our time on earth (1 Pet. 1:17)?

The fear of the Lord casts out all other fears. The fear of the Lord is healthy and clean and right (Psalm 19:9).

Complete this MATCHING problem:

1.	Matthew 10:28
2.	Matthew 10:31
3.	Psalm 112:1
4.	Psalm 112:7
5.	Isaiah 8:12
6.	Isaiah 8:13
7.	Psalm 34:4
8.	Psalm 34:9

The Fear of Men

Often, instead of fearing GOD, we fear MEN! We begin thinking like this:

"What will **they** think of me?" "What will **they** say?" "Will **they** get angry?" "Will **they** be pleased?" "Maybe **they** will see me!" "I'm afraid of what **they** might do to me!" "Will **they** be upset or offended?" "Will **they** still be friendly towards me?" "What will **they** want me to say?" "What will **they** want me to do?" "Where will **they** want me to go?" "I'm afraid **they** will not be happy with me!" "I don't think **they** will approve of this!" "They might frown on my actions!" "I hope **they** will really appreciate what I'm about to do!"

This, then, is the FEAR OF MEN. What is the FEAR OF GOD? To answer this question, simply read the above sentences again and substitute the word " GOD " for the word " they ." This is the FEAR OF GOD.				
Read Genesis 12:10-20; 20:1-11. Note especially Genesis 20:11. Was there any fear of God IN ABRAHAM? Did Abraham fear men? Was God able to protect Abraham, even without his lies and deception? Can you think of times when the fear of men kept you from doing what you knew was right?				
				Did Abraham learn to fear the Lord (Gen. 22:12)?
				How To Recognize a God-Fearer
If a person really FEARS THE LORD, then the following will be true:				
Proverbs 3:7; 14:16; 16:6; Job 28:28. He will				
Proverbs 8:13. He will				
Exodus 20:20. He will				
Nehemiah 5:15. He will				
Deuteronomy 5:29; 6:2; 13:4. He will				
Who should our close friends and companions be (Psalm 119:63)?				
How can we learn to fear the Lord (Deut. 4:10; 17:19; 31:11-13)?				

Let Us Hear The Conclusion Of The Whole Matter

(See Ecclesiastes 12:13)

Personal Questions to Ponder:

- 1. Are you afraid of displeasing the Lord?
- 2. Are you afraid of not being right with the Lord?
- 3. Are you afraid of sinning against a Holy God?
- 4. Are you afraid of having less than God's very best?
- 5. Are you afraid of not hearing God's "WELL DONE"?

CHOOSE THE FEAR OF THE LORD

(see Proverbs 1:29)

The Problem of Doubt

↓ GOD SPEAKS	↓ AND IT COMES TO PASS
Write the first 3 words in Genesis 1:6:	Write the last 4 words in Genesis 1:7:
	ere be light." What is the very next thing that this verse Did God's Word come to pass?
In Mark 14:49, Jesus said that thedown in the Bible) must be what a terrible sin it is to DOUBT God's Word and to QU	(that which God has said and which has been written Everything God says must come to pass! Therefore, ESTION what He has said!
Titus 1:2) or deceive. Whenever God speaks, He speaks the	impossible for God to (Heb. 6:18; ne truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth (Num. 23:19; ng. People may <i>err</i> (be in error), but not the Bible (Matt. 22:29).
T EMPTING	GOD RATHER THAN TRUSTING HIM!
$B_{\underline{B}}$ elieve iti i'i	
NLESS SEE IT,	I WON'T
$\setminus \setminus \setminus \bigcirc$ r maybe he didn'i	Γ.
$\setminus D$ id god really say th/	AT?

The Scriptures MUST BE FULFILLED!

Please complete the following chart:				
God Speaks	Genesis Chaj	oter 1	And It Comes to Pass	
v. 9	dry land appears		v.9	
v.11	vegetation		v.11	
v.14	sun, moon, stars		v.15	
v.24	land animals		v.24	
v.29	food for man and	d beast	v.30	
Psalm 33:9 "For and				
Psalm 148:5 "For and				
All that God says <i>must</i> come to pass!				
See if you can find the FULFILLMENT for the following promises and predictions of God:				
AND GOD SAID (Prediction) AND IT WAS SO (Fulfillment)			O IT WAS SO (Fulfillment)	
1. Isaiah 7:14		Matthew 1:		

AND GOD SAID (Prediction)	AND IT WAS SO (Fulfillment)		
1. Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:		
2. Psalm 22:18	Matthew 27:		
3. Matthew 26:34	Matthew 26:		
4. Matthew 27:63	Matthew 28:		
5. 1 Kings 13:3	1 Kings 13:		
Can you find other promises and fulfillments in the Bible?			
Has God ever failed to fulfill a promise (Joshua 21:45; 23:14)? Everything will come to pass just as God has			

Questioning God's Word

said!

Satan is called the great L	_ (John 8:44) and DECEIVER (Re	ev. 20:3,8,10).
In Genesis 3:1 he <i>questioned</i> God's word: THAT?"). Ever since the Serpent met Eve	· — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —	" ("DID GOD REALLY SAY and women question and doubt God's Word.
One example of this is found in 2 Peter 3:3 OF F	,	of the last days are saying, "WHERE IS THE?"

Genesis 3:1

HATH GOD SAID?

(Did God really say not to eat?)

2 Peter 3:3-4

HATH GOD PROMISED?

(Is Christ really coming again?)

What PROMISE was given	to Abraham in Genesis 17:15-	-16?	
Did Abraham BELIEVE G	od's Word or did he QUESTIC	ON God's Word (Gen. 17:17)? _	
What PROMISE did Sarah	hear in Genesis 18:10?		
Did Sarah BELIEVE God'	s Word or did she QUESTION	God's Word (Gen. 18:11-12)?	
	med (Gen. 17 ver DOUBT God's Word or LA		R" as a constant reminder to his
	Contradicti	ng God's Word	
•	. In Genesis 2:17, God told A		vants us to CONTRADICT and st certainly) if he
Did God's Word come to p	ass (Genesis 3:6; Romans 5:12	2)?	
	Genesis 2:17	Genesis 3:4	
	God said "Thou shall surely die!"	The Serpent Said: "Ye shall not surely die!"	
	I, and even though I don't under		d again. Peter should have said, But Peter said the very opposite:
		s Word (Matthew 16:23)?	
	eing a!	ecording to 1 John 5:10, the pers UGHT! LET IT NOT BE!	son who does not believe God is
	Is It Ever R	ight To Doubt?	
people tell us, we can get of		we usually believe what men te	e says! If we believe everything ll us (see 1 John 5:9), we should
1. Should Joshua	have doubted the words of the	inhabitants of Gibeon (Joshua 9	:3-15)?
2. Should the man	of God have doubted the old p	prophet (1 Kings 13:11-18)?	
3. Should Eve hav	ve doubted the Serpent (Genesis	s 3:1-5)?	
4. Should the wise	e men have doubted Herod (Ma	atthew 2:8)?	
5 Should Naamar	n have doubted Gehazi (2 King	s 5·20-27)?	

6. Should Abimelech have doubted Abraham (Genesis 20:1-5)?				
7. Should the world doubt the man of sin (2 Thessalonians 2:3-12)?				
Most often we believe the words of men (1 John 5:9), but sometimes men lie and deceive, and we need to be careful Sometimes it's right to doubt what men say, but it is never right to doubt what God has said! Why not?				
The Doubting Disciple				
Who was the doubting disciple (John 20:24-29)? What pleases God the most: belief based on sight of belief based on what God has said (John 20:29)? Was Thomas the only one who doubted the resurrection (Matthew 28-17; Mark 16:14; Luke 24:17-20? Was Thomas the only doubting disciple (Matthew 14:31)? Did doubting Thomas become convinced Thomas (John 20:26-28)?				
Assurance of Salvation				
Many people have doubts about their salvation: "Am I really saved?" "Do I really have eternal life?" "Have I lost my salvation?" "Have I committed the unpardonable sin?" "Will I really go to heaven when I die?" "I don't <i>feel</i> like I'r saved."				
It is wonderful to know that we do not need to doubt our salvation, but we can K that we are saved and have eternal life (1 John 5:13). This <u>assurance</u> ("I'm <u>sure</u> that I'm saved") is not based on FEELINGS, but it is based on <i>what God has said</i> :				
JESUS SAID, "HE THAT BELIEVES ON ME HAS EVERLASTING LIFE" (John 6:47)				
1. Have you believed on Jesus (John 3:16)?				
2. Have you come to Him as a lost sinner who desperately needs a Savior (John 6:37)?				
3. Have you received Jesus Christ as your Savior from sin (John 1:12)?				
4. Do you believe that Jesus Christ died to take the punishment for your sins and rose again to give you His life (1 Cor 15:3-4; Rom. 4:25)?				
5. Are you trusting in Jesus RIGHT NOW and in Jesus alone for your salvation (Acts 4:12)?				
If so, then God says that you have eternal life (John 6:47) as a present possession. Don't doubt Him or question Him or accuse Him of being a liar (1 John 5:10), but just REST upon what HE HAS SAID and start to enjoy the gift He ha given you (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Corinthians 9:15)!				
Tempting The Lord				
A Dangerous Form of Doubt				
1. What does the place name "MASSAH" mean (Exodus 17:7; Deut. 6:16)? 2. What question did the children of Israel ask in Exodus 17:7?				

How did the LORD previously prove that He was among His people:	
• in Exodus 14:13-31?	
• in Exodus 15:22-27?	
• in Exodus 16:1-31?	
Thus, we can say that their question in Exodus 17:7 was an expression of (circle one):	
a) innocent curiosity as to whether or not God was with them	
b) a deep inner belief that God really was with them	
c) doubt as to God's care and provision for their every need	
 d) their concern for Moses—they asked Moses this question just to see if their leader had credentials. 	the proper theological
3. According to 1 Samuel 17:39, we learn that TESTING (tempting) involves doubting the something. David doubted the quality and suitability of what?	
◆ If your life depended upon jumping out of an airplane with a parachute, would you w tested by an expert before it is time to jump?	ant that parachute to be
♦ Which did David trust more — his armor or his God?	
• Is God worthy of our complete unquestioning trust or do we first need to test Him be	fore we will trust Him?
THE QUEEN OF SHEBA TESTING SOLOMON	
1) Is Solomon really as wise as they tell me he is? Let's see how well he answers my QUESTIONS!	
	A. Exodus 16:4
	B. Exodus 17:7
THE LORD TESTING HIS PEOPLE	C. Deut. 8:2
2) Will they walk in My law or not?	D. Deut. 13:3
3) Will Israel keep God's commandments or not?4) Will you love the LORD your God with all your soul or will you be deceived by a false	E. Psalm 78:18-19
prophet? 5) Will they keep the way of the LORD or not?	F. 1 Kings 10:1 2 Chron. 9:1
GOD'S PEOPLE TESTING THE LORD	G. Judges 2:22
6) Can God furnish (provide) a table in the wilderness? 7) Is the Lord among us or not?	

Therefore, it can be said that we test God whenever we DOUBT AND QUESTION HIS CHARACTER; that is, whenever we question His faithfulness, His power, His care, His concern, His presence, His love, His fairness, His sovereign working, etc.

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1.	 The man who tests God says:	A.	Don't test Him; trust Him!
2.	 The man who trusts God says:	B.	God is faithful!
3.	 God has every right to say:	C.	Will you be faithful to Me? (see Judges 2:22)
4.	 A helpful rule for the believer:	D.	Is God faithful?

6. Read Numbers 21:4-6. According to the New Testament commentary on this passage (1 Cor. 10:9), how is their sin identified and described?					
Thought question: In what way did they question God's character?	Thought question: In what way did they question God's character?				
Why is Numbers 21:4-6 relevant and important to us today according to					
7. Today, we tempt the LORD whenever we question and doubt. Match the following:					
1 God's sovereign working in our lives for our good.					
	A. Philippians 4:13				
2 God's shepherding care and concern.	B. Philippians 4:19				
3 God's super-abundant power and ability for every situation.	C. Exodus 17:7 and Psalm 46:1				
	D. Romans 8:28				
4 God's ample supply for every need that we have.	E. Psalm 23:1				
5 God's ever <i>present</i> help in time of trouble					
8. Did the Lord Jesus need to test God as to whether He would really kee (Matthew 4:6-7)?	p His promise of angelic protection and care				
◆ Did God the Father fulfill this promise (v.11)?					
9. What is the conclusion to this whole matter (Deut. 6:16)?					
10. True or False : Israel tempted the LORD because they had no clear evidence or proof of God's working on their behalf (Psalm 95:9).					

- We do not need to prove (test) God because God has already proven Himself to be everything He said He is!
- If God could save your soul (solve your greatest problem), can He also take care of your day-by-day problems?
- Does it make much sense to QUESTION or DOUBT His problem-solving ability by daily complaints, murmurings, and worries?

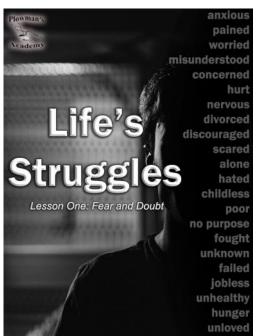
CONCLUSION: Only trust Him (Mark 5:36)!

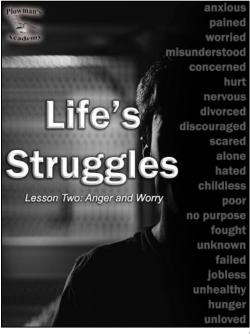
Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths (Proverbs 3:5-6).

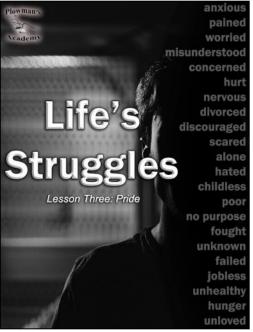
What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.
In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust;
I will not fear what flesh can do unto me (Psalm 56:3-4)

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God (Psalm 20:7)

It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man (Psalm 118:8)









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