



The Fear Factor
1 Peter 3:13 – 16 (NIV)

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- 1. Our fears are often unwarranted and may be an _____ to obeying the Great Commandment.**

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." (v.13-14)

Consider: If we're going to neighbor well, we must have the courage to wrestle with our fears!

- 2. Neighboring can also be _____, but in these circumstances we are encouraged to let God lead us and to seek his guidance.**

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear

conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. (v. 15 -1 6)

EXAMPLE: Grasshoppers and Giants (Numbers 13)

- **Consider:** FEAR has a way of distorting our perspective. Someone has to break the cycle of fear! How might God be inviting you to move forward and not backward?

This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. (1 Tim 1:6-7)

ACTION: Go and meet one of your neighbors who you know nothing about. Leave a note if they don't come to the door.

**Remember, God is already working in your neighborhood!
We are NEVER on our own.**



Doggy Bag: *Something to Chew On and Ponder Throughout the Week*

1. Do you have any “tenacious friends” in your life? What is that like? How do they impact you?
2. What are the challenges of being a good friend? How and when have you failed at being a friend to someone else?
3. Are you skeptical about anyone on your block? Why?
4. Discuss or think about some practical ways you can overcome your fears of interacting with neighbors you don't know.
5. Read Matthew 17:1 – 9. What do you like about this passage? How does it raise questions or challenge you?
6. Why do you think that Jesus made a decision to spend the majority of his time with a small group of people?
7. Have you ever encountered a “messy” situation in neighboring? What happened?
8. Read Romans 12:14 – 21. Have you ever become acquaintances or friends with someone who you once considered an enemy?
9. What are some reasons Christ-followers refuse to work together? How valid are these reasons?
10. What would our city and / or county be like if every Christian made a decision to become a better neighbor?

THE MAIN POINT:

**CONFRONTING OUR FEARS REGARDING OUR NEIGHBORS CAN BE
HARD WORK, BUT IT IS ALWAYS WORTH IT.**