**1. Motivate**

When has fear served a good purpose in your life?

* I slowed down while driving in bad weather
* I didn’t go with the rest of the group (who later got in trouble)
* got checked out by the doctor and made sure there were no broken bones
* my wife would not let me get out of the car and take a picture of a snake that had been stretched all the way across the road (true story, on a mountain road in Malaysia)
* made sure I studied for the test

A video introduction to the lesson is available. Watch at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_2kp21kqx>
If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/mvupr79x>

* got the shingles vaccine … afraid of getting it
* afraid of falling through the ice, didn’t go out on it

**2. Transition**

Fear can be a good thing to protect us.

* The Bible says the “fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.”
* The fear of God gives us the foundation to face all other fears.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 In Awe of The Creator

⇨ There are too many stars for scientists to actually count one-by-one, so other methods of *estimating* the total number of stars are used. Scientists believe that there are on the order of 1024 stars in our Universe. If you write that number out, it looks like this: 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000. Some scientists believe that number is likely a gross underestimation, as more detailed looks at the universe will show even more galaxies.

How many stars do you think there are? Millions? Billions? Trillions? Listen to what the passage says about these 1024 stars

Psalm 33:6-9 (NIV) By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him. 9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

Note the declaration of how God populated the heavens, the skies?

* By His words.
* By the very breath of His mouth
* He spoke and it came into existence
* He commanded and it stood firm

How should all the inhabitants of the world respond to such a mighty God?

* fear the Lord
* stand in awe of His power and authority
* revere Him

What does the fact that God *created* *all things* through His word alone say about His power?

* realization of the extent of His power
* realize His creativity
* as humans we think we’re pretty clever, but God’s absolute power contrasts to our puny abilities
* don’t mess with God
* those who oppose Him and His workings are foolish

Contrast what *we* consider “creativity” …

* Take an existing canvas and existing paints and “create” a picture
* Take an existing piece of wood and take away bits so that what is left is a recognizable image
* Take existing instruments and instruct them to play notes in a sequence that “creates” music

⇨ Actually, we don’t *create;* we *innovate.*

What questions are implied by accepting the reality of a Creator?

* Can we know Him?
* Is He interested in us?
* He set it in motion, now what is His involvement?
* Or did he just “wind it up” like a watch and let it go?
* How much of His power and authority apply to me?

Why is God’s absolute authority an unpopular concept in our culture?

* people today want to make their own choices
* generally, we don’t like people (or God) telling us what to do
* we are big on “freedom” to do as we please … this is America after all!

What, then, are the advantages of submitting to God’s authority?

* gives lasting advice and direction
* His wisdom is eternal
* we can depend on His direction to be good for us, beneficial
* who better to submit to than one who has the power and wisdom and knowledge to create the universe and keep it running

How can we both love and fear God … how can these emotions coexist?

* the fear one of awe and being impressed
* you are so impressed with His power and authority and love for you that you must respond with love, obedience, and submission
* not unlike the attitude that many children have for a grandpa … halfway afraid of him cause he might be gruff … at the same time, loving him dearly

3.2 Surrender to Jesus as Lord

Listen for how God interacts with the people of the earth.

Psalm 33:10-15 (NIV) The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. 11 But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. 12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance. 13 From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; 14 from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth-- 15 he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.

What contrast was given between the plans and purposes of humankind and the plans and purposes of the Lord?

* God foils the plans of the nations
* He thwarts the purposes of people
* But … the plans of the Lord stand forever
* His purposes last through all generations

Why is it so hard to put God’s plans above our own? Why do you think we so easily rely on our own strength rather than trust in the Lord?

* we think we know better
* we want instant solutions, God’s timing may be longer, but is better
* we have doubts
* we often want something different than God wants for us
* we are not totally surrendered to God

What truths about God make it easier for you to surrender to His plans?

* we know He loves us
* He entered time and space in the person of Jesus
* He has taken care of our sinful condition by taking the judgment upon Himself
* His power and authority will accomplish His purposes … and include us in His purposes

What do you think our attitude toward our goals and plans reveals about our view of God?

* if we have no goals and plans, if we just drift through life, then we probably have not obeyed God, or even listened to Him
* if we fight against what we think are God’s plans for us, then we have excluded Him as Lord of our lives
* if we are confused about what we should be doing, then we may be impatient in waiting for God to show us
* if we think we have to pray over and question God over every little detail of our lives, then we might not be trusting the commonsense God has given us – maybe our fear is not “awe” or “reverence”, but a lack of understanding of God’s true love for us and forgiveness when we do make a wrong choice, we are in terror of messing up

3.3 God Is Our Shield and Protector

Listen for how God watches over those who fear Him.

Psalm 33:18-22 (NIV) But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, 19 to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. 20 We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. 21 In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. 22 May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.

How does the Lord treat those who trust in Him instead of in themselves?

* His eyes are on them
* He watches over them
* He will deliver them from death
* He keeps them alive in famine

Recall David’s description in Psalm 23

* Keeps him from want
* Gives rest
* Provides water and food
* Protects
* Goes with him through danger
* Gives healing

What expectations does the Lord have of the actions to be taken by His people?

* fear the Lord, stand in awe of Him
* put your hope and trust in God
* be convinced of His unfailing love
* be assured of His help and protection
* trust Him
* rejoice in who God is and what He does

Verse 20 says “*We* ***wait*** *in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.”* What do you think it means to “wait” on the Lord?

* trust Him
* hope in His sufficiency
* go on with life, believing that He will be sufficient
* a realization that God knows best how and when to answer our prayers
* a realization that we do not dictate to God … He is the one who has and uses authority wisely

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

How can we learn better the practice of waiting on the Lord?

* be in regular communication with God
* tell Him your frustrations
* read His Word to be informed of His power, His love, His authority
* allow God to convince you of His sufficiency, His wisdom
* keep a journal of things for which you trusted God and then when and how He provided the need
* like the song says, “count your many blessings, see what God can do”

Application

Pray.

* Read through Psalm 33, making it your own prayer.
* Reflect on the greatness of God and confess any attitude that did not reflect an awe and holy fear of God.

Memorize.

* Choose a verse about the fear of God and memorize it to continually remind yourself of your relationship with God and the benefits of a proper attitude toward Him.
* Here are two verses to consider:
	+ “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge” (Prov. 1:7).
	+ “Don’t be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil” (Prov. 3:7).

Trust.

* Surrender your plans to God.
* Trust Him, in His great power and love, to lead you as He sees best.

Crossword Puzzle



But remember, the clues and words come from Ps. 33:6-15 (NIV). Help and other fun Family Activities are at <https://tinyurl.com/mvupr79x>



These look hard!