

Digging Deeper into The Pastoral Principles: Fear

Here's a reminder of the aim of this course.

Held together in the love of Christ: principles for living and learning well together

The purpose of this course is to help church communities to examine afresh their life and learning together in the face of difference and diversity. In this course we are invited to think about the things which impair relationships. This week we're thinking about 'fear'.

(The Archbishop's Council, 2021)



Chat

- Talk about changes in society or differences in opinion which make you feel uncomfortable.
 - Why do you think they effect you in this way?

Study

We looked at this passage at the end of May but we're coming at it from a different angle this week. You may remember that the earliest NT gospel manuscripts we have don't include it. Some manuscripts place it somewhere else in John's Gospel and a few put it in Luke's Gospel. Because of other historical references, many theological scholars are confident that it is an account of a real incident but that John didn't write it.

Read John 7:53 – 8:11

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+7-+8&version=NIV>

- Who is afraid in this story?
- What are they afraid of and why do you think they are afraid?
- Do you identify with any of the fears in this story?
- What, if anything, does this story say about addressing the problem of fear in our churches?

Think

- How quick are we to "pick up stones" and judge others?
- If we do judge others, does this come from a place of prejudice, ignorance or fear?
- What situations, people, or cultural changes make you fearful and influence your views and beliefs?
- How can we help to remove other people's fear in our church community?
- Read 1 John 4:16-18 and reflect on what it means.

