

## **FEAR**

Many people have emotions in anticipating a specific pain or danger from trauma. Usually the experience has affected the way he/she deals with the anticipation. Some children experience traumatic emotional experience thus having fearful thoughts of a specific issue. Fear can be a deterrent in allowing someone to fully live in society. As Christians, we have an obligation in supporting our fellow Christians in difficult situations. Another way in which Christians view fear is of God. Christians are said to be ‘god fearing.’ In this case, Christians have a profound respect for God.

### **Mentor**

Being scared or afraid of something is quite different from fear. Share with your mentee if you have experienced fear or have been associated with someone that experienced fear. Also share what it means to be a God fearing person. How has that changed your life? When did you realize your fear of God?

### **Biblical foundation**

- Psalm 23:4, ‘Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; you are my rod and staff, they comfort me.’ (TNIV)
- Isaiah 41:10, ‘So do not fear, I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.’ (TNIV)
- 1 John 4:4, ‘You dear children are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.’ (TNIV)

## **Cultural**

Evil Shamans had influenced fear in to the people. Either placing curses on people or actually performing demonic worship witnessed by many people allowed the shamans to place fear into them. Often times people would see spiritual apparitions of demonic figures. Many times people would ignore the apparitions saying, do not acknowledge the spirit, it will not bother you.' By the arrival of the missionaries, shamans thus faded. Many shamans converted to Christianity, giving up their shaman powers. Many also respected Ellam Cua (God). They respected Ellam Cua by appropriately placing discards in the ocean and land, recognizing Ellam Cua is watching and if discards were not properly placed, Ellam Cua would not allow the spirit of the animal to come back and be caught for food. Realizing Ellam Cua was in control of everything, they respected Ellam Cua greatly.

## **Potential activity**

Ask your mentee to write down their understanding of fear. Have they experienced fear? What was the fear? How did they deal with it? Do they understand what it means to fear God? These questions will allow your mentee to think in two areas of defining fear.