

DISCUSS

How does David describe his circumstances in verses 153–160?

How does he describe himself?

In what ways can you relate to David's frustrations about striving for obedience, yet observing his enemies succeeding in their plots against him? What are some ways in which you are prone to similar discouragement? What causes you to wonder where God is at work?

How do you tend to react during those times? Where do you turn for hope and encouragement?

Where does Matt say we find true encouragement in times of doubt?

What concept does Matt say verses 161–168 introduce?

How does he define "awe"?

How have you experienced awe in your own life?

How have you experienced awe in your spiritual life? In what ways did it affect you?

What about God inspires you to worship Him?

What spirit does this Romans 8:15–17 say we have received in Christ?

According to verse 15, if the end result of the spirit of slavery is fear, what is the end result of the "Spirit of adoption"?

How did Matt's explanation of "Abba" change any views you previously had about the term?

Bearing in mind that you are a child of a strong and caring Father through faith in Jesus Christ, how should that truth change your response to difficult times of life? How should God's protective care encourage a greater boldness within you?

While it begins with God's Word, what else stirs your affections for Jesus? What causes your perspective to lift so that you see and savor your Father?

What distracts you from focusing on Christ?

As you consider your answer to these questions, has the Holy Spirit convicted you of any ways that you need to be more intentional about pursuing the things that deepen your love for Christ? What changes will you make as a result of this session?

LIVE IT OUT

Pray: Each day this week, ask God to lift your perspective to fix your eyes on Christ rather than your own performance.

Detox: Make time this week to spend at least one hour in nature to disconnect from the busyness and distraction of life. Turn off your phone and bring only a Bible with you in order to be still and spend time in silence with God.

Encourage: Reach out to someone you know who feels discouraged because of their performance and help them to focus on the righteousness they receive through faith in Jesus Christ.

Reflect: Spend some time this week reflecting on what God has saved you from through His Son, Jesus Christ and let that lead you into a greater awe of your Savior.

Surrender: If the Holy Spirit has convicted you of any unhealthy fear that remains in you, be intentional about surrendering that to God and asking Him to help you embrace His spirit of adoption.