

# fear of the future



# Discussion guide

Everything has an edge. The edge of society, where conformity ends and creativity begins. The bleeding edge of technology. The edge of reason. **City Bible Forum** invites you to take a look over the edge. To understand where our current thinking is taking us. To see what's happening now, what's coming next, and what you can do about it.

## You've listened to the panel with others, now try and take it further to The Edge.

### WHAT IS FEAR?

1. Should we fear fear, does it serve any worthwhile purpose?
2. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom. What does it mean to appropriately fear or respect God? How could that help you become wiser? *'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.'* Proverbs 9:10
3. How might escalating fears expose your values? Eg: panic buying.

### TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

1. Some have suggested that this virus is as much a test of us as a society as it is of govts, health authorities. Can we pull together as a community rather than operate in an individualistic way.
2. What does it mean to show leadership in a crisis? Think broadly about those responsible for a team at work, for parents with families, etc.

### CHRISTIAN FAITH

1. If God is supposed to be in control why is there a coronavirus in the first place?
2. In Matthew 6:25-27, Jesus addresses worriers, effectively covering Maslow's hierarchy of human needs. What is his reason to not worry?

Is it practical advice?

*"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?"*  
Matthew 6:25-27

### MANAGING FEARS

People have already demonstrated creative ways of managing their fears eg: the Italians in lock down, singing with one another across their balconies. Come up with some new ways to overcome the isolation this virus brings.



*"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." - Marie Curie*