

the  Venues  
**Go Deep**  
**The Nightmare Before Christmas**  
10.29.17

**The Christmas Creep** - no it's not a Christmas Monster. It's not a Christmas Pervert. It's not a Christmas Dance. It's a phenomenon where the Christmas season starts earlier and earlier each season.

*How do you feel about Christmas Creep?*

Christmas Creep is why Tim Burton wrote and created The Nightmare Before Christmas. The plot was inspired when he noticed the collision of Halloween and Christmas decorations in stores.

**Jack Skellington: "I'm sick of the scaring, the terror, the fright. I'm tired of being something that goes bump in the night...I don't like graveyards, and I need something new. There must be more to life than just yelling 'Boo!'"**

*What are your biggest fears? What makes you anxious? How do you handle your fears?*

*Why do some churches use fear to motivate? What are your stories of churches or people using fear to motivate?*

Read John 14:27 and Matthew 6:34

*What does Jesus say about fear and anxiety?*

Read 2 Timothy 1:7; Psalm 34:4; Psalm 94:19; Isaiah 43:1-2; 1 Peter 5:6-7

*Based on these passages, what do you think is God's view of fear?*

"If you can't feel safe with a person, deep love cannot really happen. If, in the presence of God, you don't feel safe and even protected, then I don't think it is God - it is something else." - Richard Rohr

*How does this quote relate to your relationships in life? Your relationship with God?*

In which town do you live? Christmas Town or Halloween Town?

**Once Jack was in Christmas Town: "Immersed in the light, Jack was no longer haunted. He had finally found the feeling he wanted."**

Read John 1:4-5; John 8:12; 1 John 1:5; Matthew 4:16; Colossians 1:13; 1 Peter 2:9

*Do you live in darkness and fear of Halloween Town or the light and peace of Christmas Town? The anxiety and fear of the world or the light and peace of Jesus?*

Read Philippians 4:6-7

*How can we move from fear to peace? Darkness to light?*

Ideas: Pray. Become aware of your emotion of fear/anxiety. Identify your fear ("Of what am I afraid?"). Jesus said to worry is to be too focused on the past and future, rather than the present. How do we focus on the present? Your breath is a good place to start. The Old Testament Hebrew word for "breath" is the same word for "Spirit." Is it possible that when we notice our breath we notice the Spirit of God inside of us?

*How can you be a comfort to others in your life who live in fear and anxiety?*

*How can you show them the light of Jesus? What does that look like?*

*How can we let Christ's light and peace of Christmas creep into our lives?*