

LIFE GROUPS

LEADER PAGE | Acts | WEEK 12 of 30 | Sermon date: March 20, 2022

Discipleship Phrase: God's church, God's way.

Big Idea for Series: God's church is built on His principles.

Abiding *(grow as a disciple yourself)*

God is in pursuit of your heart. As you prepare for this week's discussion, spend time reflecting on how much He loves you. There is no sin too great, no distance you could run, that would discourage God from loving you. From the moment you were born God has been pursuing your heart and His greatest longing is for relationship with you. In your time with Him this week focus on a few of these scriptures as you seek His face: Psalm 23:6 (NIV), "Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever". 1 John 4:19, "We love because He first loved us". As you recognize and experience God's pursuit and love for you, know that He also desires your love and pursuit of Him.

Leading *(facilitate your group effectively)*

As you lead your group this week, make sure to be actively listening as your group members share. When they do, be listening for some key phrases they say that truly glorify God's pursuit of them. Then, be sure to restate what you heard. For example, "Wow, you just said, there was nothing that God wouldn't have done to reach you. That's powerful." When doing this you not only keep the focus on God but you may also be allowing the person who said it, hear it for the first time. Our line of thought this week is how God is in relentless pursuit of us. Facilitate well by continuously reminding your group to respond using "I" statements. This maintains the importance of relationship by inviting us all into the vulnerable place of being seen and heard.

Shepherding *(know, feed, lead, and protect the sheep)*

Talking about how passionately God loves us, through his unwavering, persistent pursuit, can be emotional. As your members share their experiences throughout your time together this week, take mental notes and some time to affirm them. Send a quick text to remind them they are worthy and fully-known by our shared savior.

Church Announcements *(be in the know & share with your group)*

Women's IF Gathering, Friday April 1st 7-9 PM & Saturday April 2nd 9:30-1 PM. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

REMEMBER:

"Every group deserves a great leader."

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Welcome/Introductions & Opening Prayer

Ice Breaker, God Moments, or Highs & Lows (*choose what fits best*)

Weekly Vision (*Announcements, The “Why”, Goal, Outreach, Guidelines, & Branching*)

Guidelines: Confidentiality, Avoid Crosstalk, Avoid fixing & Rescuing, Use “I” Statements, Contribute over Consume, Be Mindful of Self (allow all to share & use humor responsibly).

Ask a Hook Question (*a thought-provoking question*)

Have you every pursued something and achieved it? If so, what?

Recap the Message (*ask a couple people to share*)

Scripture References (*Read scriptures directly from the Bible*)

Ezekiel 34:11-13 (ESV), **Acts** 10:1-29 (ESV),

Implications (*takeaways from the message*)

1. God gave his son for you, but that's not all; he orchestrates your circumstances to make his love for you obvious.
2. When our will is aligned with God's, we join him in showing his welcoming love to others.
3. When we are attentive, God makes the needs around us clear, though they may challenge our preconceptions.
4. We have misunderstood chosen-ness; it is our natural tendency to reinterpret chosen-ness to mean supremacy rather than usability.

Discussion Questions (*going beyond the surface*)

1. The Bible makes clear that Jesus is in ever-ending pursuit of his flock. Read Ezk 34:11-13 and name a few of the circumstances He fights through to win us unto Him.
2. His pursuit of your heart is unrelenting. Talk about a time where you knew without a doubt you were being pursued with purpose by God.
3. Think about how much God loves you; Knowing He would leave the 99 to pursue you if you were to go astray. How does His passionate pursuit of you change your heart posture towards Him?
4. Name some ways you can pursue your relationship with Christ in a more purposeful manner.

Closing Prayer (*ask openly for a volunteer*)

