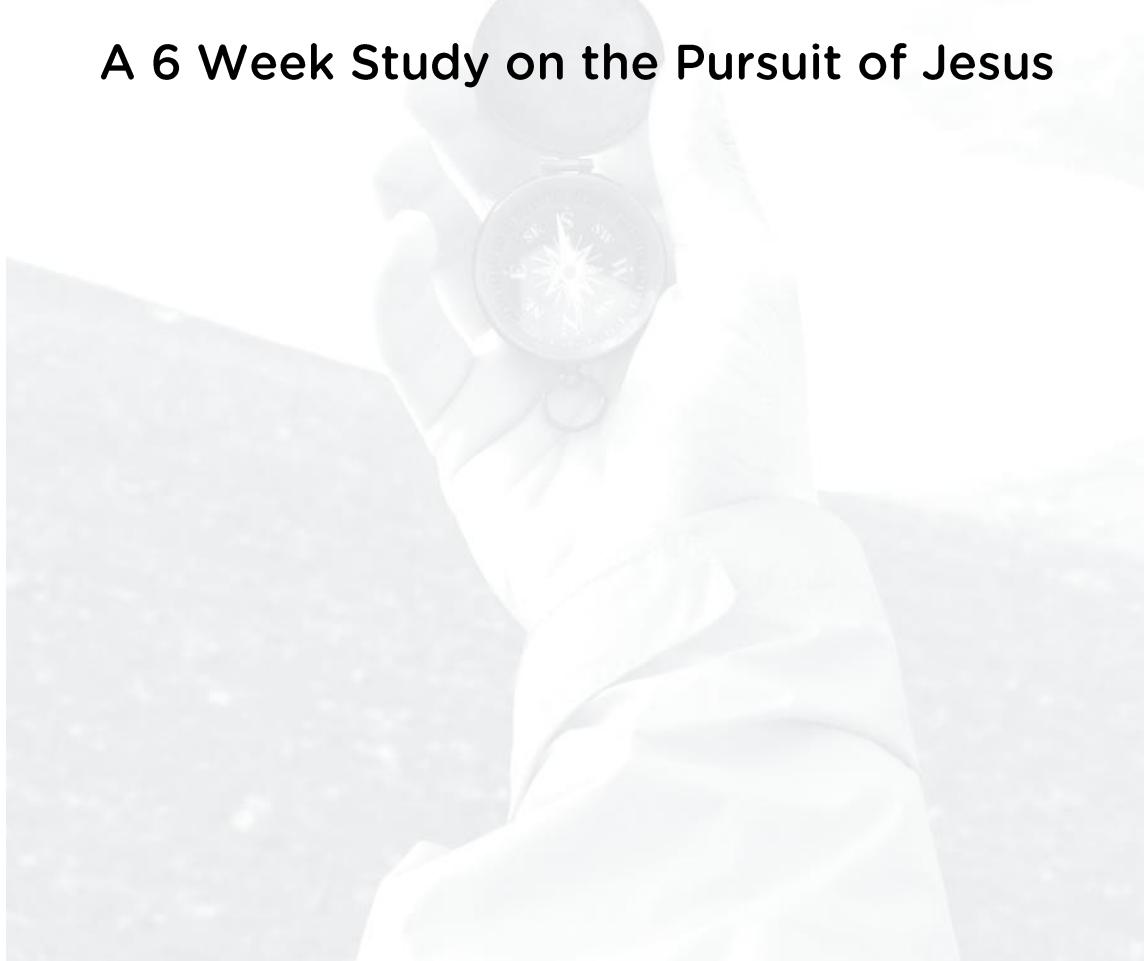


THE PURSUIT

A 6 Week Study on the Pursuit of Jesus



THE PURSUIT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Week 1... Pursuit of Love

Day 1...	Unashamed Love	Matthew 1:18-25
Day 2...	Brave Love	Esther 4:12-17
Day 3...	Secured Love	Ruth 4:1-12

Week 2... Pursuit of Restoration

Day 1...	Restoration of our Ministry	1 Kings 19:1-18
Day 2...	Restoration of our Innocence	John 8:1-11
Day 3...	Restoration of our Lives	Luke 7:11-15

Week 3... Pursuit of Justice

Day 1...	Justice Described	1 Peter 1:17; Romans 2:3; Hebrews 4:13
Day 2...	Justice Required	Genesis 3:13-24
Day 3...	Justice Satisfied	Romans 3:21-31

Week 4... Pursuit of Mercy

Day 1...	Mercy Triumphs	Jonah 3:6-10
Day 2...	Mercy Mends	Acts 9:1-19
Day 3...	Mercy Offered	Deuteronomy 30:1-5

Week 5... Pursuit of Grace

Day 1...	Grace Given to Sinners	John 21:12-17
Day 2...	Grace Given Unwarranted	1 Samuel 16:1-13
Day 3...	Grace Given to Us	Ephesians 2:1:10

Week 6... Pursuit of Salvation

Day 1...	Salvation from Ourselves	Romans 7:15-22
Day 2...	Salvation from Slavery	Romans 6:1-11
Day 3...	Salvation from Death	Romans 5:12-21

WEEK 1 PURSUIT OF LOVE

Day 1: Unashamed Love



Read What? Matthew 1:18-25



What?

This is where you describe what it is that happened in the story in your own words.



So What?

This is where you talk about what this passage means to you in your own life.



Now What?

This is where you talk about what you are going to do differently because of this passage.

Day 1 Unashamed Love

Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph had every right to back out. The woman he was betrothed to marry was with child and it was not his. Anyone in their right mind would bow out at that point. But not Joseph. He stayed. No doubt there were skeptics. People probably talked behind their backs and questioned their character. But he stayed with Mary. He loved her and he was unashamed of that love. He endured the ridicule and mockery that was to come because of his love for her and the unborn Christ.

The unspoken love discussed in this passage is the love the God of the universe put on display when he stepped out of heaven into earth to be completely dependent on a human. This is the ultimate condescension. The holy creator of everything was willing to come to earth and join a bunch of people who would eventually reject Him and kill Him. This begins our pursuit of Christ, Jesus pursued us unashamedly and now our response is to pursue a life that honors and glorifies Him.

Study Questions:

1. Why did Joseph stay? Give me more than "An angel talked to him."
2. What is the significance of the two names given to our savior? Google the meaning of each.

Application Questions:

1. If you were Joseph, how do you think you would have responded to this situation?
2. How will you respond, knowing that Christ has unashamedly loved you?

WEEK 1 PURSUIT OF LOVE

Day 2: Brave Love



Read What? Esther 4:12-17



What?

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Day 2 Brave Love

Esther 4:12-17

Haman's plot to eradicate the Jews was nearly coming to fruition and if it were not for the bravery of Esther all the Jews throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus would have perished. Esther's love for her people shown through and she risked her life by standing before the king without an invite.

Fear is a natural and healthy aspect of life. It keeps us from getting too close to the edge of the Grand Canyon or from liking an Instagram post that's two years old. Bravery is not the absence of fear, but it is doing what is needed in the face of fear. There has never been a greater picture of bravery than Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. Jesus knew what was going to happen, he desired to have the cup of death pass from Him, but He knew that it needed to happen so that our sins could be atoned for.

Study Questions:

1. In v. 16, what did Esther ask Mordecai to do before she faced the king? Why is this significant?
2. What was Mordecai referencing when he said, "for such a time as this"?

Application Questions:

1. Mordecai told Esther she was selected as Queen "for such a time as this." What situation has God placed you in that to make an impact for His Kingdom?
2. Think of a time when you were not brave, what would you do differently if you had the chance?

WEEK 1 PURSUIT OF LOVE

Day 3: Secured Love



Read What? Ruth 4:1-12



What?

This is where you describe what it is that happened in the story in your own words.



So What?

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Now What?

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Day 3 Secured Love

Ruth 4:1-12

After losing her father-in-law, brother-in-law, AND husband and after leaving her biological family Ruth had lost everything. She was a beggar who picked up the scraps left behind by the workers in the field. But she caught the eye of a man named Boaz, the owner of the field. She had nothing to offer and Boaz had everything to lose. But he chose her. He redeemed her. He brought her, and her mother-in-law back into prominence and provided a safe, loving environment for them to flourish.

There is something about security that allows us to let our guard down. When we are not safe we can never relax. That's why sleeping on planes is difficult for so many. Jesus tells us to "come to Him all who are weary and heavy laden and He will give them REST." Have you ever gotten home from a vacation and felt like you needed to take another vacation? That is because the only place where we can find real rest is when we are resting in the security that Christ offers us. When we sit at the feet of Jesus and allow His peace to fill our lives, only then can we find secured love and be able to rest our weary minds.

Study Questions:

1. In v 5-6, why do you think the redeemer chose to not marry Ruth?

2. In what ways does Boaz marrying Ruth offer security to Ruth and Naomi?

Application Questions:

1. In what ways does Jesus' love provide security to you?

2. What are a couple obstacles you are facing that are keeping you from fully receiving the security offered to you by Christ?

WEEK 2 PURSUIT OF RESTORATION

Day 1: Restoration of our Ministry



Read What? 1 Kings 19:1-18



What?

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Day 1 Restoration of our Ministry

1 Kings 19:1-18

Elijah's life was threatened and instead of trusting the Lord, he ran. He had nearly given up on life and was ready to die. But there is grace even in our weakest moments. Grace that sustains us. The Lord graciously provided food for Elijah. The Lord graciously provided rest for Elijah. That sustaining grace Elijah was provided brought him to a place where he was able to hear the voice of the Lord. And what was once ruined by human mistakes and fear, the Lord was able to not only restore Elijah ministry, but He increased his influence.

We are never too far gone to make an impact for Jesus' Kingdom. Regardless of your past mistakes, regardless of your present mistakes. You are never beyond Christ's ability to restore your ministry. Jesus has a tremendous plan for your life and when you are ready for His leading and His guidance He can and will take your life and accomplish amazing things for His glory. It is why Jesus went to the cross. Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection would all be in vain if it was not sufficient enough to restore our lives.

Study Questions:

1. Why did Elijah run away?
2. What was it that gave Elijah the ability to continue on after the Lord spoke to him?

Application Questions:

1. In V.7 God told Elijah that "the journey was too great for him" in what areas of your life is the journey too great? In what areas do you need to allow the sustaining grace of Jesus to fill your life?
2. What were the natural events that occurred when Elijah was listening for God's voice? What does that imply that we need to do to listen to His voice?

WEEK 2 PURSUIT OF RESTORATION

Day 2: Restoration of our Innocence



Read What? John 8:1-11



What?

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Day 2 Restoration of our Innocence

John 8:1-11

No one knows what it was that Jesus wrote. People speculate that maybe he wrote each of the sins the men standing before Him have committed. No one really knows what he wrote. What we do know is that this woman was caught in the act of adultery, she was probably naked and definitely ashamed. The law required that BOTH parties involved in the adultery must be brought forward, but they only brought the woman. This tells us that the Pharisees didn't care about the woman, but they were much more inclined to trap Jesus. But He didn't fall for it. Instead He wrote something so profound a gaggle of angry men dropped their stones and left the woman alone. No one stood to accuse the woman.

Romans 8 claims that there is "no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." That means there is no one left to throw stones at those who have put their faith in Christ. It does not matter what sins you have committed in the past; the blood of Jesus covers you and restores you to the innocence humanity had before the fall. When Christ died on the cross, all the sin and dirt that was on us was removed and placed on Christ. But it goes beyond that, if we just were given a clean slate, we would dirty it again. We were then given the perfect slate of Jesus Christ, one that could never be soiled or stained. Now, for those of us who are in Christ Jesus, when God looks at us, He sees the perfect Righteousness of Jesus. And He is pleased.

Study Questions:

1. In V. 6 it John says the Pharisees were "testing" Jesus, why do you think they were testing Him?
2. Why do you think that the older Pharisees left first?

Application Questions:

1. Do you still feel condemnation for events in your past? Do you think that voice is from the Lord or the enemy? Read Romans 8:1 if you aren't sure.
2. In V. 11 Jesus says "go, and from now on sin no more." Why is not sinning anymore important to the restoration of our innocence?

WEEK 2 PURSUIT OF RESTORATION

Day 3: Restoration of our Lives



Read What? Luke 7:11-15



What?

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So What?

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Day 3 Restoration of our Lives

Luke 7:11-15

You don't see that every day! A dead man sat up and started talking. "Fear seized them all" yeah! I bet! The Walking Dead is still 2000 years away. Jesus had compassion on this woman. That is beautiful. Jesus saw this woman's broken heart, he recognized that this woman now was without a husband and son, meaning she had no way of providing for herself and she was going to become a beggar. His heart went out to her and He had compassion on her. That compassion demanded action and the action it demanded was the resurrection of the dead.

In the Garden of Eden, God and man had perfect communion; life was good. But it was broken with the fall when sin entered the world; when the curse of death was placed on each one of us. Jesus claims that He has come to give us "life and life abundantly." Although we all will face death Jesus is offering life. Not just life eternal with God in heaven, but a full, satisfying, joy filled life right here on earth today. Solomon discover that the secret to happiness was not found in extravagant parties or in enough women to have a new one each day. He had all of that and all of it was "meaningless." Everything pales in comparison to the abundant life that Jesus offers.

Study Questions:

1. Do a quick google search on other people raised from the dead in scripture. Why were they resurrected?
2. What did Jesus do to raise this man from the dead?

Application Questions:

1. What have you experienced of the world that was pleasant for a season, but ultimately found that it is meaningless?
2. Have you discovered the abundant life Jesus was talking about? If you have, what was it? If not, what is keeping you from experiencing it?

WEEK 3 PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

Day 1: Justice Described



Read What? 1 Peter 1:17; Romans 2:3; Hebrews 4:13



What?

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Day 1 Justice Described

1 Peter 1:17; Romans 2:3; Hebrews 4:13

This is difficult. This makes us uncomfortable. It is so easy for us focus on the pleasant attributes of God. To focus on His love and restoration He offers to us. It is so much more stretching to learn of His justice. It puts us in our place. Having a healthy understanding of the true depravity of humanity allows us to truly appreciate the significance of Jesus' sacrifice for us.

There are three words from scripture that stand out when we examine the justice of God. The first is that His justice is impartial. God judges all equally. We all have been given a standard of perfection that He requires us to keep. The second word is inescapable. There is nothing we can do on our own to get away from Gods judgement. We will all stand before the Lord when our time is over and give an account for how we spent our time on earth. And our last word is that his justice is infallible. This should give us comfort. Infallible means that He is incapable of making a mistake. So when God judges we can trust that he will judge correctly 100% of the time.

Study Questions:

Draw a line from the verse to the word describing Gods Judgement:

Impartial Romans 2:3

Inescapable Hebrews 4:13

Infallible 1 Peter 1:17

Application Questions:

How does it make you feel when you think of Gods justice as:

Impartial:

Inescapable:

Infallible:

WEEK 3 PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

Day 2: Justice Required



Read What? Genesis 3:13-24



What?

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Day 2 Justice Required

Genesis 3:13-24

There was a moment in time when humanity walked with God and talked with God. Everything was right with the world and there was no darkness. And then Eve was deceived and Adam ate of the apple, and in that moment the curse of sin entered the world. Along with it came pain, sorrow, sickness, and death. Ultimately, all of this is a result of mankind's separation from a Holy God. Because He is Holy and completely without sin, the just or deserving punishment for the sin in our lives is separation from God.

This is why Jesus came to Earth. Our God is so loving that He saw us in our state of separation from Him and did not want to leave us there. Instead, because of His love for us, Jesus exhibited His passionate pursuit of us by coming to Earth and placing the punishment of death that we deserved onto Himself.

Study Questions:

1. What was the consequence of sin as described in Genesis chapter 3?
2. Why do you think that Adam was punished for Eve's deception?

Application Questions:

1. What have been the consequences of sin that you've seen in your own life? (your own sin or even someone else's)
2. Is there any sin in your life that is currently separating you from our Holy and loving God? Take some time to ask the Lord to reveal to you areas of your life that you are keeping from Him.

WEEK 3 PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

Day 3: Justice Satisfied



Read What? Romans 3:21-31



What?

This is where you describe what it is that happened in the story in your own words.



So What?

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Now What?

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Day 3 Justice Satisfied

Romans 3:21-31

This is the day we've been waiting for. After understanding the depth of human depravity, and realizing the necessity of justice that is required from a Holy God, we now can stand on the truth that because of Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross for us, we have been justified by our faith in Him. Justification is a legal term. It means you have been declared 'not guilty' by the Creator of all things. Why? How is this possible? If ALL have sinned, and the wages of sin is death, shouldn't death be what is required of us as payment for our sins?

In verse 25, the ESV translation uses the word 'propitiation.' That is a fancy word that simply means, 'substitute.' Jesus took upon Himself the punishment that we deserve. And it is only by faith in the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus Christ that we can be declared 'not guilty' of our sin. It is not based on how well we perform, it is not based on how well we can 'play church', or by how many Bible verses we have memorized. In the moment that Jesus died on the cross, God poured out all of the wrath that we deserved onto His son. It is because of this, that there now no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus.

Study Questions:

1. Looking at all 10 of these verses, how do they sum up the past 3 days of devotions?
2. According to verses 27-28, what justifies us?

Application Questions:

1. How does it make you feel, knowing that all of God's wrath was placed on Jesus as He hung on the cross?
2. Is there shame in your past that you need to let go of, because you have been declared 'not guilty?' Take some time to pay it at the feet of Jesus and thank Him for His sacrifice.

WEEK 4 PURSUIT OF MERCY

Day 1: Mercy Triumphs



Read What? Jonah 3:6-10



What?

This is where you describe what it is that happened in the story in your own words.



So What?

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Now What?

This is where you talk about what you are going to do differently because of this passage.

Day 1 Mercy Triumphs

Jonah 3:6-10

There is a beautiful contrast in the fact that we serve a just God who is also full of mercy. In the first 2 chapters of the book of Jonah, God asked the prophet Jonah to travel to Nineveh and tell them to repent of their sins. Instead, he ran as fast as he could in the opposite direction. Jonah didn't feel that the people of Nineveh deserved God's mercy. Traveling away on a boat, God sent a storm, and the other people on the boat threw Jonah overboard. He spent 3 days inside a big fish, before being vomited up on a shore near Nineveh, where he went and preached the message that God had originally asked him to. The Ninevites repented, and God showed them mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

That last sentence rings as true now as it did in Jonah's time. God's goodness never changes. The Bible speaks of us before we knew Christ in many ways. We were children of wrath, dead in our sins, and slaves to fear, sin, and death. That was our identity before we knew Jesus. But regardless of where we come from- our religious background, what we have done, who we were- the mercy of Jesus is poured out equally on those who have received Him. And those who have received Him are now His masterpieces- children of God, and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Study Questions:

1. What was the King's response upon hearing of his people's sin?
2. What was God's response to the repentant heart of the king?

Application Questions:

1. When you are confronted with sin in your life, what is your response?
2. What does the phrase- 'mercy triumphs over judgment' mean to you?

WEEK 4 PURSUIT OF MERCY

Day 2: Mercy Mends



Read What? Acts 9:1-19



What?

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So What?

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Now What?

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Day 2 Mercy Mends

Acts 9:1-19

If there was anyone who deserved punishment from God, it was Saul. He was doing so much damage and hurt in the name of religion- yet Jesus still chose to pursue him and show him mercy. There were two types of mending in this passage. The first was the mending of Saul's heart. Saul 'spewed murder' against the followers of The Way. He knew more about scripture than just about everybody. He followed the law and knew everything about God. But- he did not know God's heart. He was so wrapped up in the law and pride he could not see the truth until Jesus took away his sight. The second type of mending was physical. Jesus used one of the men that Saul would have murdered to show His mercy, and heal Saul's eyes. Because of that display of radical mercy, God changed Saul's name to Paul, and the world has never been the same.

God wants our hearts and our bodies to be mended just like Saul's. Physically and emotionally, the Holy Spirit still moves and heals by faith in miraculous ways, to glorify God. Beyond physical healing, our hearts, which are evil, are being made new in the name of Jesus. Just like Saul, Jesus meets us where we're at, on the road to places we should not be. He calls us by name and shows us the way we should walk.

Study Questions:

1. What was Ananias' response to God asking him to go and heal Saul. Was God mad at Ananias for his response?
2. After having his sight restored, what was the first thing that Saul did? (keep in mind- he had not eaten or drank anything for 3 days)

Application Questions:

1. In what area of your life do you need the Lord's mercy to mend you?
2. Do you believe that the Lord can still heal today? Do you think he wants to?

WEEK 4 PURSUIT OF MERCY

Day 3: Mercy Offered



Read What? Deuteronomy 30:1-5



What?

This is where you describe what it is that happened in the story in your own words.



So What?

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Now What?

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Day 3 Mercy Offered

Deuteronomy 30:1-5

Mercy is offered to everyone. Jesus sacrificed Himself on the cross for the WORLDS sin. However, if a friend held out a \$20 bill to you, that bill would not be yours until you took it. In the same way we need to be able to receive the mercy that Jesus is offering us. To receive His mercy, we must repent from our sin. To repent means to turn away from and go in the opposite direction. It means that your life does a 180 degree turn. As you begin to walk with the Lord, He begins to show you areas in your life that you need to turn away from. Our response to sin in our lives should always be one of repentance.

The people of Israel repeatedly hardened their hearts against the Lord and His commands. If we aren't careful it is easy for us to fall into that trap as well. We can get complacent with our lives and the sin that is in them. We get comfortable living in our own filth. The story of Josiah is a beautiful picture of the type of response to sin that the Lord will grant Mercy to. Josiah took over as King at a young age and his father was an awful man. Josiah ran the nation as his father before him because he did not know better. As his priests were cleaning the temple one day they came across the first five books of the bible (the Pentateuch). Josiah read through the scrolls and it broke his heart how far from the Lord His people fell. He immediately went to war against the sin in His nation, burning idols, tearing down temples, and destroying the false gods around him. Because of his response to the sin in his life the Lord showed mercy on him and his people.

Study Questions:

1. What did God ask the Israelites to do? (V.1-2)
2. What would God's response have been in they do what He asks? (V.3-5)

Application Questions:

1. When was the last time you went to war against the sin in your life?
2. What is the hardest part about turning away from sin?

WEEK 5 PURSUIT OF GRACE

Day 1: Grace Given to Sinners



Read What? John 21:12-17



What?

This is where you describe what it is that happened in the story in your own words.



So What?

This is where you talk about what this passage means to you in your own life.



Now What?

This is where you talk about what you are going to do differently because of this passage.

Day 1 Grace Given to Sinners

John 21:12-17

So we just finished talking about God's mercy and how wonderful it is that the Lord chooses to not hold our sins over our heads. But God is so kind to not just be merciful to us. He gives us something called grace. I'm sure if you've lived on this planet long enough you've heard that word before. Sometimes we can confuse mercy with grace, but grace is actually something different. Grace isn't God having pity on us because of our faults. Grace is the power to do what God has called you to do. Think about it, why would the bible say Jesus was "A man full of grace" if He never sinned? Grace must mean something more.

After Jesus rises from the dead, he meets up with his disciples and has breakfast with them. One disciple (Peter) had denied that he knew Jesus when Jesus was being taken away to be crucified. Peter was beating himself up over how he thought he would never deny Jesus ... until he did. Jesus makes it a point to bring Peter back to the basics of what it means to follow in His footsteps. He asks Peter, "Do you love me?" And Peter answers truthfully, "yes." And then Jesus gives Peter the calling to "feed my sheep." Jesus wasn't just telling Peter to 'prove' his devotion. He was re-identifying Peter as someone who follows God. Jesus was re-identifying Peter as someone that He trusted enough to be called on assignment for God. Maybe no one's told you this before, but God trusts you with assignments on His behalf. And along with that trust, God gives you the grace (the empowerment) to follow through. Even when you mess up, Jesus makes it a point to remind you who you are and whose strength you have.

Study Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him three times?
2. What other bible stories come to mind when Jesus gives grace to people who probably didn't deserve it?

Application Questions:

1. What areas of your life have you denied Jesus access to?
2. What steps can you take to accept the Grace Jesus has offered you?

WEEK 5 PURSUIT OF GRACE

Day 2: Grace Given Unwarranted



Read What? 1 Samuel 16:1-13



What?

This is where you describe what it is that happened in the story in your own words.



So What?

This is where you talk about what this passage means to you in your own life.



Now What?

This is where you talk about what you are going to do differently because of this passage.

Day 2 Grace Given Unwarranted

1 Samuel 16:1-13

There's something in us that loves rooting for the underdog. The guy who seemed to start from the very bottom and rises to the top. God loves the underdog, too. One of the coolest underdog stories in the bible is about a guy named David. We know him as King David. The guy who defeated the giant and the King who led mighty men into battle. However, before David did any of those things, he was just a boy. On a hill. Watching over his sheep and singing songs to God. This is the guy God chooses to be the next king of Israel. He chooses someone that no one thought would ever amount to anything great. David's own father even seemed to forget about his existence. But God saw David. God didn't forget about him.

The Lord chose to empower a teenage boy with the grace to carry out the assignment of being Israel's next king and David didn't do anything to deserve it. That's what 'unwarranted' means. If we're honest, most of the time we like to win. So we'll pick the best partner for the race, or the fastest car, or the best board game strategy in order to achieve that win. God likes winning, too. But unlike us, He likes to use people and things and situations that might seem unreliable in our eyes. He sees what people CAN be with the power of HIS grace at work in them. And that's what He saw in David. God knew that one day, with the help of His grace, David the boy would become David the man after God's own heart. Never underestimate the power of God's grace at work in your life. It's not something you can earn. It's something you choose to receive as He gives it to you.

Study Questions:

1. What is the significance in the fact that Jesse didn't even call David in from tending his sheep when Samuel came to visit?
2. According to V. 7 what part of a man does God care about?

Application Questions:

1. In what areas of your life do you feel small and insignificant?
2. Do you think God can use that for His glory? How?

WEEK 5 PURSUIT OF GRACE

Day 3: Grace Given to Us



Read What? Ephesians 2:1:10



What?

This is where you describe what it is that happened in the story in your own words.



So What?

This is where you talk about what this passage means to you in your own life.



Now What?

This is where you talk about what you are going to do differently because of this passage.

Day 3 Grace Given to Us

Ephesians 2:10

Ephesians 2:1-3 describes the true depth of our depravity in a way that few other passages of scripture do. The words that are used are powerful words. When we hear phrases like "children of wrath" and "dead in our trespasses and sins" we should probably listen. And it is true. Our hearts are wicked and not to be trusted. When left to our own devices humankind will lead to the inevitable end of Nazi Germany, Communist Russia, or the Kardashian's. Ok maybe not the Kardashian's. But we feel the tug away from the Lord. We all feel drawn to the things that our flesh wants and away from our God. The old Hymn says "prone to wander Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love" and it is absolutely true. We desire things that are contrary to our Lord.

"But God." There is not a more beautiful phrase in all of the Bible than "but God." Whenever the Bible says this it just sets the stage as humans being awful. Because we are. But then it goes on to describe how God has made it right. Even when we were enemies of God, Jesus died on the cross to take every wandering heart and bring them back to Him. And every single person who puts their faith in Jesus is then given the amazing grace that God offers us. We are saved by grace through faith in what Jesus Christ has done for us.

Study Questions:

1. What phrases were used to describe your life before you knew Jesus?

2. What phrases were used to describe what Jesus did to bring us back to right relationship with him?

Application:

Take some time in prayer and thank the Lord for the Grace that He has offered you even when you didn't deserve it.

WEEK 6 PURSUIT OF SALVATION

Day 1: Salvation from Ourselves



Read What? Romans 7:15-22



What?

This is where you describe what it is that happened in the story in your own words.



So What?

This is where you talk about what this passage means to you in your own life.



Now What?

This is where you talk about what you are going to do differently because of this passage.

Day 1 Salvation from Ourselves

Romans 7:15-22

In Proverbs the Bible says, “as a dog returns to his own vomit, so a man returns to his own sin.” This is accurate. We are often our own worst enemies. We sin. Often times, we are our own worst critic. Our brains regularly play tricks on us. We find ourselves in the same situations over and over again and sometimes we begin to feel complacent with it. We begin to feel comfortable with the filth we live in. That’s a dangerous place to be in. If we are all honest with ourselves, we have all been in the exact same place that Paul was in in Romans chapter 7 here. “I do what I don’t want to do.” But praise be to God because of what Jesus has done.

Christ has set us free from the slavery of the law. We are no longer trapped to the idea that we need to do enough good things to gain Gods approval. Jesus has made you perfect by his substitutionary sacrifice on the cross. We no longer need to feel a compulsion to do what is right. Rather in response to God’s great love we can respond to Him by follow my His commands. Not out of a sense of obligation but rather, love. If we truly love Jesus, then we will desire to do what He asks us to do. A husband doesn’t love his wife because she does all the things on his checklist and a wife doesn’t love her husband because he is able to accomplish all of his tasks. That’s not how relationships work, especially our relationship with God. God desires our hearts first. And when our hearts are in the right place our lives seem to just fall in to place.

Study Questions:

1. According to this passage, what good do we have in and of ourselves?
2. Can you think of a story in the bible when there was another person who was a “good guy” but he made mistakes? What happened?

Application Questions:

1. What comfort do you take from the idea that Jesus came to save us from ourselves?
2. In what areas of your life do you feel like you are where Paul is? What sin do you keep coming back to? What are you going to do about that?

WEEK 6 PURSUIT OF SALVATION

Day 2: Salvation from Slavery



Read What? Romans 6:12-23



What?

This is where you describe what it is that happened in the story in your own words.



So What?

This is where you talk about what this passage means to you in your own life.



Now What?

This is where you talk about what you are going to do differently because of this passage.

Day 2 Salvation from Slavery

Romans 6:1-11

During the time of the Jesus the Pharisees and Sadducees were the religious authority. The prided themselves on the scripture that they knew and the laws they could recite. As young children they began training to fill these roles and soon after training the would be able to recite word for word the "Pentateuch," the first five books of the bible. Imagine that! Five whole books! Some of us have trouble with just five verses! And these guys as children not even in their teens yet, could tell us exactly what the law was. The Law was ingrained in their heads so much that it become much more about what they knew than who they were. The Pharisees lost sight of what was most important and in doing so they began to care more for the Law and acting right than whether or not their relationship with God was in the right place.

It is easy for us to fall into this trap as well. Because think about it, just about every relationship that we have is some sort of a quid pro quo. A "this for that" type arrangement. Isn't it wonderful that we do not serve a God who requires this of us? The Law was only good to point out sin in our lives. It was a warning sign telling us that something is wrong, that our hearts are fractured, and we need a savior. We get that, we feel the weight and struggle of our sin every single day. But Jesus came to set us free from the slavery of following the law. We no longer need to try to please God with the things that we do because Jesus has given us His perfection and for those of us who are followers of Christ. Jesus has freed you. God the Father is pleased with you. What will you do in response?

Study Questions:

1. What does Vv. 1-4 say regarding the idea of "if Jesus forgives us regardless, I should just live the way I want to live"?
2. According to Vv. 5-11 how were we set free from sin?

Application Questions:

1. Knowing that God is pleased with you, what weight have you been holding on to that you need to let go of?
2. If you had a friend who felt like they needed to do good to go to heaven, how would you respond to them?

WEEK 6 PURSUIT OF SALVATION

Day 3: Salvation from Death



Read What? Romans 5:12-21



What?

This is where you describe what it is that happened in the story in your own words.



So What?

This is where you talk about what this passage means to you in your own life.



Now What?

This is where you talk about what you are going to do differently because of this passage.

Day 3 Salvation from Death

Romans 5:12-21

The greatest tragedy in scripture is when Adam ate of the apple. When he did the curse of sin entered the world. Along with the consequences of that curse. Sickness, pain, sorrow, and ultimately death. Death haunts us. From the time we were kids to the day that we die, humans have a weird denial/fear of their inevitable end. We can't really think about it too much. Our enemy is cunning, and he knows our fears. He knows our limitations. He taunts us with our own death. He taunts us with the death of people we love. It looms over our heads as something we all know is coming but don't want to experience. We get little glimpses of it as we grow. People we know pass. People we love pass. And we are left to wonder. Our enemy knows this.

Jesus died. God – died. I can imagine as Jesus was hanging on the cross our enemy was snickering and believing that he won. But friends Jesus didn't stay that way – He got better. Death haunts us but Jesus defeated death. Can you imagine as the stone was rolled away from Jesus' tomb the shrieks that came from the darkness? Jesus rose from the grave victorious not only over His own death but giving victory to everyone who believes as well. Death has hung over mankind's heads since the fall of man. It was Satan's one chess piece left. And Jesus smashed it. We no longer need to fear death, we no longer need to worry about those who are in Christ who have passed away. We are allowed to grieve, but don't grieve for them, they are in a better place than us. It is Christ's victory over death that allowed Paul to say, "Oh death, where is your sting. Oh death, where is your victory?" We still will all taste death, but friends, the death that Jesus saved us from isn't a physical death, it's our spiritual death – this is the Gospel. This is the Good News.

Study Questions:

1. Read V.12 and V. 18 – What is the contrast between these two verses? Who are these verses talking about? What did they do?

Application Questions:

1. Write the names of five people that you need to share this Good News with. Pray for them. Ask God to give you opportunities to share with them. And watch and see if He doesn't give you chance to talk to them about Jesus' great pursuit of them.

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