



# PURSUIT

## **Pursuit 2022 Part 1—Get Near, Stay Near Pastor Dave Patterson 1.2.2022**

### **USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

***Change is inevitable, but growth is optional.***

#### **[Malachi 3:6]**

"I am the LORD, and I do not change."

#### **[Hebrews 13:8]**

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

#### **[Isaiah 43:19]**

See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

#### **[James 4:8]**

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

***You can be as close to God as you want or as distant as you will allow.  
Proximity to God is the cure for everything.***

**[1 John 3:2]**

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.**

### **WAYS TO DRAW NEAR (PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST)**

- 1. Commit to read through the Bible this year.** (Check TFH App for churchwide plan.)

**[Psalm 119:15-16, 37]**

I meditate on your precepts  
and consider your ways.  
I delight in your decrees;  
**I will not neglect your word.**

Turn my eyes from worthless things,  
and give me life through your word.

- 2. Join us in our 14-Day fast.** (Guide to prayer and fasting at TFH.org)

***Fasting is the most effective way to get you out of the way. When we fast, we build an altar and lay down the old version of us.***

- 3. Set daily appointments for prayer and worship.**

***Eliminate the distractions and excuses that can hinder us.***

- 4. Save the dates and join us for the first TFH- ALL CHURCH Conference. (January 26-27)**

**[Mark 5:21-34]**

Jesus got into the boat again and went back to the other side of the lake, where a large crowd gathered around him on the shore. <sup>22</sup> Then a leader of the local synagogue, whose name was Jairus, arrived. When he saw Jesus,

he fell at his feet, <sup>23</sup> pleading fervently with him. “My little daughter is dying,” he said. “Please come and lay your hands on her; heal her so she can live.”

Jesus went with him, and all the people followed, crowding around him. <sup>25</sup> A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding. <sup>26</sup> She had suffered a great deal from many doctors, and over the years she had spent everything she had to pay them, but she had gotten no better. In fact, she had gotten worse. <sup>27</sup> She had heard about Jesus, so she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his robe. <sup>28</sup> For she thought to herself, “If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.” <sup>29</sup> Immediately the bleeding stopped, and she could feel in her body that she had been healed of her terrible condition.

Jesus realized at once that healing power had gone out from him, so he turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my robe?”

His disciples said to him, “Look at this crowd pressing around you. How can you ask, ‘Who touched me?’”

But he kept on looking around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup> Then the frightened woman, trembling at the realization of what had happened to her, came and fell to her knees in front of him and told him what she had done. <sup>34</sup> And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. Your suffering is over.”

## **THE ENEMIES OF PURSUIT**

### **1. The doubts and fears that “nothing is really going to change”**

**[Romans 10:11, AMP]**

“WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM [whoever adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Him] WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED in their expectations.”

### **2. The opinions and rejection of those who watched her draw near to Jesus**

***Don't let your past titles land on your heart.***

3. **She pursued through physical, emotional, and financial exhaustion.**  
(she was spent)

***Faith will pursue God even in weariness, even in weakness.***

**[2 Corinthians 12:9-10, TPT]**

But he answered me, “My grace is always more than enough for you, and **my power finds its full expression through your weakness.**” So I will celebrate my weaknesses, for when I’m weak I sense more deeply the mighty power of Christ living in me.<sup>10</sup> So I’m ***not defeated*** by my weakness, but delighted! For when I feel my weakness and endure mistreatment—when I’m surrounded with troubles on every side and face persecution ***because of my love*** for Christ—I am made yet stronger. For **my weakness becomes a portal to God’s power.**

***In the pursuit, the purpose is released.***

**FOR MONDAY—**

1. Set your heart to pursue God and run after His call on your life, dedicating this whole month. As a discipline, set a daily appointment.
2. Press through any delay, exhaustion, or weakness that is competing for your pursuit of God.

**TALK IT THROUGH**

1. What are some things that have radically changed for you or your family in the last couple years?
2. How do we prepare to step into an ever-changing world?  
Consider: “Change is inevitable; growth is optional.” How does this statement position you for a successful approach to this next season?
3. What are some enemies of pursuit that you have had to battle?
4. Why is God not intimidated by our sin? How does the story of the bleeding woman demonstrate this?
5. How does our weakness become a portal to God’s power?

- 6.** Read Isaiah 43:19. How can we see what God is doing? What is the new thing we need to tap into and perceive?
- 7.** What are some successful habits we can create and maintain? What are some ways you can personally draw near to God?  
[James 4.8]
- 8.** What factors determine the quality of your relationship with Jesus? When have you had to silence the voices or put to rest excuses that were holding you back from breakthrough? Which of the “enemies of pursuit” have you had to battle?
- 9.** Where do you need proximity in order to gain momentum for your faith? Who can energize you in your pursuit?
- 10.** How will you embrace prayer and fasting to combat exhaustion? What are you hopeful for God to accomplish?