



# PURSUIT

## Pursuit Part 1—Diligent Pursuit Pastor Dave Patterson 10.13.2019

### USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

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.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

**The gift of giving** = a divine enablement to generate wealth beyond one's own needs in order to give generously to others and advance Kingdom work.

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”*

**Jeremiah 29:11-13**

**[Jeremiah 29:12-13, AMP]**

*Then you will call on Me and you will come and pray to Me, and I will hear your voice and I will listen to you. Then with a deep longing you will seek Me and require Me as a vital necessity, and you will find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*

**[Luke 11:5-8]**

*Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: “Suppose you went to a friend’s house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, ‘A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.’ And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can’t help you.’ But I tell you this—though he won’t do it for friendship’s sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence.*

**[Luke 11:9-10, AMP]**

*“So I say to you, ask and keep on asking, and it will be given to you; seek and keep on seeking, and you will find; knock and keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who keeps on asking persistently, receives; and he who keeps on seeking persistently, finds; and to him who keeps on knocking persistently, the door will be opened.*

- 1. A diligent pursuit of God is always rewarded (Hebrews 11:6).**
- 2. God initiates the desire to pursue Him.**

**[Philippians 2:13, AMP]**

*For it is not your strength, but it is God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work, that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing and the ability to fulfill your purpose for His good pleasure.*

**3. Determine to PURSUE God despite obstacles and resistance.**

**[Matthew 8:1-3]**

*Large crowds followed Jesus as he came down the mountainside. Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached him and knelt before him. “Lord,” the man said, “if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean.”*

**[Matthew 8:3]**

*Jesus reached out and touched him. “**I am willing,**” he said. “**Be healed!**” And instantly the leprosy disappeared.*

***Faith runs past the rejection toward the greater version of me.***

**FOR MONDAY—**

1. Begin to create a “well-worn path” toward God through worship, word, and prayer. Ask the Lord to put a pursuit in your heart.
2. Read Scripture on fasting and prayer, seeking the Holy Spirit’s guidance on how to approach the churchwide fast.

## TALK IT THROUGH

1. Where have you been where the passion level was obvious or “off the charts?” How could you tell that people were trying to get the best experience possible?
2. Who do you know whose persistence produces results? How does this compare to Luke 11 sanctified persistence?
3. Have you given up on any prayers or gotten weary in well-doing? What motivates you to pick some of those things back up? Share any stories of answered prayer over long-term pursuit.
4. Pastor Dave said, “God puts this desire in us to pursue after Him.” Knowing that God initiates, how does that encourage you?
5. What is a situation in your life that requires an “only God” moment, a desperation for change, and a willingness to pursue Him?
6. What are some ways you can be accountable and protect your passion to pursue God, regardless of obstacles and emotional dryness?
7. What is the Jeremiah 29.11 version of your life that God still has in store for you? What are some things God still wants to accomplish through your life?