



PURSUIT

Pursuit Part 2—Don't Quit Too Soon Dave Patterson 10.20.2019

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.

[Galatians 6:8-9, NLT]

Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. ⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. (faint)

[Romans 10:11, AMP]

Everyone who believes in Him (whoever adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Him) will never be disappointed in their expectations.

[Psalm 33:18, TPT]

The eyes of the Lord are upon even the weakest worshipers who love him—those who wait in hope and expectation for the strong, steady love of God.

Hope / yachal = to wait for, to stay in a given place with expectation, to trust and so remain

[Isaiah 35:3-5]

*Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;
say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”*

[Daniel 10:1-3, NLT/AMP]

In the third year of the reign of King Cyrus of Persia, Daniel had another vision. He understood that the vision concerned events certain to happen in the future—times of war and great hardship.

When this vision came to me, I, Daniel, had been in mourning (fasting) for three whole weeks. All that time I had eaten no rich food. No meat or wine crossed my lips, and I used no fragrant lotions (to refresh or groom myself) until those three weeks had passed.

[Daniel 10:4-14, NLT/AMP]

⁴ On April 23, as I was standing on the bank of the great Tigris River, I looked up and saw a man dressed in linen clothing, with a belt of pure gold around his waist. His body looked like a

precious gem. His face flashed like lightning, and his eyes flamed like torches. His arms and feet shone like polished bronze, and his voice roared like a vast multitude of people.

Only I, Daniel, saw this vision. The men with me saw nothing, but they were suddenly terrified and ran away to hide. So I was left there all alone to see this amazing vision. My strength left me, my face grew deathly pale, and I felt very weak. Then I heard the man speak, and when I heard the sound of his voice, I fainted and lay there with my face to the ground.

Just then a hand touched me and lifted me, still trembling, to my hands and knees. And the man said to me, “Daniel, you are very precious to God, so listen carefully to what I have to say to you. Stand up, for I have been sent to you.” When he said this to me, I stood up, still trembling.

Then he said, “Don’t be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. Now I am here to explain what will happen to your people in the future, for this vision concerns a time yet to come.”

[Ephesians 6:11-13, NLT]

Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

1. Set your heart to pursue.

[Daniel 10:12]

Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart (to pray), and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard.”

2. Set your course of pursuit.

[Daniel 6:10]

“Daniel continued to get down on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God...”

FOR MONDAY—

1. Bless the Lord in advance; praise Him for the breakthrough that is coming.
2. Pray and ask God for a personal plan for the upcoming fast.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What things drain you of energy? What renews your strength? What do those timeframes usually look like?
2. What were some things in life that you used to pursue that made you unstoppable? What was the outcome? How did you know when you had completed your pursuit?
3. What are some things you need to pursue, or keep pursuing, to stay connected to God? In other words, what provides perspective for His plan for your life?
4. Read Galatians 6:8-9. It points out that we “reap what we sow.” How does your actions line up with the passage? Why is it important to not give up even if you get tired?

5. How does the life of Daniel set an example of a fast that pleases the Lord? What were some qualities you can apply?
6. What do you think of the statement that “fasting is an untapped weapon of our warfare?” Why do you think people avoid fasting?
7. Who are some people that you know who reaped a reward through fasting? What were some of the results of them embracing this spiritual discipline?