

**PURSUIT Part 1**

**Pastor Dave Patterson**

**March 3-4, 2018**

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced 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 pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.

Title Track from the new TFH Worship album, *Pursuit:*

(The chorus)

*We’re pressing in to You, Oh God, for all you have*

*In pursuit of You, we’re in pursuit of You*

“**You have to live in the verse before you can go to the bridge”**

(The verse)

*Here we are waiting, desperately yearning,*

*Fully surrendered, longing for you*

*We have come hungry, with fire in our spirits*

*Satisfied by nothing, other than you*

(The bridge)

*You’re close, You’re close, You’re closer than we know, now*

*You’re here, You’re here, You’re presence all around*

*The sound of Your voice, the power of Your glory*

*Fill this place - You’re in this place*

**We were created to pursue God, but He is the one who initiates the love. He initiates, and we respond.**

* **Romans 5:8**

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

# John 6:44

*“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day”*

* **Jeremiah 31:3**

“I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.”

**Our job is to come hungry.**

* **Matthew 5:6**

*“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied”*

* **James 4:8**

*Come close to God, and God will come close to you.*

# Jeremiah 29:13

*“If you seek me with all of your heart, you will find me”*

**Passivity will take you down, but passion will elevate you!**

# Psalm 25:3

*No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame,*

# Luke 11:9

*“And so I tell you,* ***keep on asking****, and you will receive what you ask for.* ***Keep on seeking****, and you will find.* ***Keep on knocking****, and the door will be opened to you.”*

**King David’s song written while on the run from his son, Absalom.**

**Psalm 42:1-5**

*As the deer pants for streams of water,  
    so my soul pants for you, my God.*

*My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
    When can I go and meet with God?*

*Day and night I have only tears for food,  
    while my enemies continually taunt me, saying,  
    “Where is this God of yours?”*

*My heart is breaking  
    as I remember how it used to be:  
I walked among the crowds of worshipers,  
    leading a great procession to the house of God,  
singing for joy and giving thanks  
    amid the sound of a great celebration!*

*Why am I discouraged?  
    Why is my heart so sad?  
I will put my hope in God!  
    I will praise him again—  
    my Savior and my God!*

1. **Be intentional in your pursuit** (redeem the time)
2. **Set the atmospheres of your world with worship**

**3. Stay committed to the pursuit** *(especially in the wilderness)*

* + **Psalm 42:11**

*Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.*

* + **Psalm 72: 18-20**

*Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds.**Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.*

*This concludes the prayers of David son of Jesse.*

TALK IT THROUGH

1. How many in your group can relate to misplaced pursuit? Have you ever found yourself in a place you shouldn’t have been?
2. What are some things in your life that you are running after, seeking or pursuing? Is there one thing that you are passionate about above all else? What is it?
3. What is your favorite way to "redeem the time"?
4. How does it make you feel to know God has always been chasing you, and He always will?
5. Pastor Dave gave this progression for pursuit:
   * It begins with a longing for God,
   * Then, there’s the pursuit of God,
   * We experience His presence,
   * Then, revelation comes.

Have there been times in your life when you experienced this progression? If so, share what was revealed and how it affected your life. How can you keep that fresh?

1. What are practical ways during your day/week that you could be more intentional about pursuing God?  (Leaders: remind them of P. Dave’s commute illustration.)