Sermon Discussion Guide (8/13)

Begin the discussion by checking in with each person present and share prayer requests/praises with the group. Then, have one person offer a prayer for the group making sure to include any prayer requests that were mentioned earlier.

Scripture
Read Mark 10:6-9 out loud. Discuss any initial thoughts you have about these verses.

Observation
What does this Scripture reveal to us about our nature to pursue what we don’t have? How can this nature, if left unchecked, cause us to separate what God has joined together?

Read Ephesians 4:29. Why do you think Paul tells the people of Ephesus to refrain from using harmful words? How does harmful language serve to interfere with the promise of pursuit? How do helpful words serve to build others up according to their needs?

Read Romans 12:9-10. How does this verse demonstrate the necessity of marriage being a commitment or covenant and not a contract or 50-50 relationship?
What is the contrast between hating what is evil and clinging to what is good? How does doing this allow a person to demonstrate sacrificial love in their relationships?

**Application**

In your relationships, when have you noticed that you were no longer pursuing the other person? How does ceasing to pursue the other person negatively affect the relationship?

Are you more likely to criticize or encourage a person that you are in a relationship with? Why do you think we tend to focus on what a person is doing wrong instead of what they are doing right?

In your relationships, how often do you move from thoughtful ideas to thoughtful actions? What hinders you from carrying out the ideas you have?

In his sermon, Pastor Kenny told us that if you want something different, then be different. Are there any things that you would like to see change in your relationship? If so, what micro change will you make this week so that you can begin to have the relationship you want?

**Prayer**

Conclude your time by offering a prayer to God. In the prayer, praise God that He has created us to serve others. If you have been convicted of any sin during this time, confess that sin to God. Thank God for His Word, which shows us how we can encourage one another in love. Ask the Holy Spirit to show us how we can continue to pursue those that we care about.

Meditation Prayer for the Week: Repeat and meditate on this Scripture “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Hebrews 13:16).

Think about these words while you are going about your daily tasks. You could say these words while you are cooking dinner, driving to an appointment, or completing household chores. Doing this will allow you to refocus your mind on God and His truths.