



# CONNECT

## WEEK 2: LEAN IN

### *Covenant — The Pursuit of God*

#### **Monday: Turn Aside and Lean In**

*Scripture: Exodus 3:1-4*

*[1] Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. [2] And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. [3] And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." [4] When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." (ESV)*

Moses saw something unusual—a bush that was on fire but not burning up, and instead of missing it because he was distracted, rushing past it because he was running late, or snapping a picture and posting it because he was hoping to go viral on Instagram, he leaned in.

Moses “turned aside” and when he looked closer, God spoke.

It’s true that God pursues us relentlessly, and we should praise Him for that, but He also invites us to pursue Him. When Moses turned aside, he opened the door for God to not only reveal Himself but to call him into purpose.

How wild is it that we get to communicate with the Creator of the universe? That ability and relationship is what sets Christianity apart from so many other false religions that require humans to “earn” God’s love or attention.

So today, take a minute to think about what might be the “burning bush” in your life that God is using to get your attention right now. Are you willing to pause, lean in, and listen? Because often, it’s in those intentional moments of turning aside that we encounter Jesus in new and powerful ways.

### REFLECTION

- What might God be trying to get your attention with right now?



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### Tuesday: Chasing the Right Prize

*Scripture: James 4:8 & Matthew 6:33*

**James 4:8** [8] *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (ESV)*

**Matthew 6:33** [33] *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (ESV)*

“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you” isn’t just a transactional guarantee. It’s a loving relational promise dependent on His pursuit as well as ours. We spend so much time chasing accomplishments, approval, or what we’ve been taught to value in an anti God world, and we forget the real prize: God Himself. What we have to come to terms with is that it is entirely impossible to run in two directions, to travel east and west at the same time, or to swim deep with our feet still on the shore. Yet we’re out here chasing worldly success day after day assuming that a 20 minute prayer and devotional each morning + attending a church service every Sunday (when the fam isn’t too tired, too busy, or out of town) will actually keep us running in the right direction. Forgive the frankness... but no.

It’s no wonder we feel anxious, tired and never fully satisfied.

So today, instead of chasing everything else, make the choice to draw near by chasing Jesus only. Let His love wrap you up in the best, most fulfilling relationship there is.

### REFLECTION

- How are you actively pursuing/chasing God this week?

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### Wednesday: The Gift of Stillness

Scripture: Psalm 48:10

*[10] “Be still, and know that I am God.  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!” (ESV)*

In a culture that constantly asks you for more, nobleizes your burnout, and pushes you to always be chasing after the next shiny thing, quieting our hearts can feel pretty rebellious. We’ve been conditioned to keep moving and to earn our worth through activity. But God’s invitation is vastly different—it’s about pursuit not productivity. While the world yells at us to do something worthy of its attention, God gently calls us to receive His attention by pausing, being still, and seeking His presence.

When was the last time you slowed down enough to focus on intentionally pursuing God? Have you gotten so caught up in the noise that you’ve forgotten how good His presence feels? Psalm 46:10 reminds us that in moments of stillness we get to really know God—His peace, His strength, His voice. This kind of knowing requires our surrender.

Pursuit isn’t just about running after Him—it’s about creating space to sit with Him. When we seek Him wholeheartedly in the quiet, we find the peace that only He can give.

### REFLECTION

- When was the last time you intentionally got still enough to hear from God?



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### Thursday: Quiet Enough to Hear

*Scripture: Isaiah 30:21*

*[21] And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. (ESV)*

Whether you turn left or right, you’ll hear God’s voice behind you saying, “This is the way.”

But first—you have to listen.

God isn’t trying to stay hidden. He’s not playing some holy version of hide-and-seek with us. He wants to be heard. But hearing Him requires something most of us aren’t naturally good at—slowing down, turning down the noise, and actually listening. We say we want God’s direction, yet we fill every margin of our day with screens, podcasts, opinions, or even just the endless to-do list cycling through our minds.

And then we wonder why we feel confused or stuck. God is speaking—He said so right here in Isaiah. The problem isn’t whether He’ll guide us. The problem is whether we’ve created space to hear Him when He does.

Sometimes the most spiritual thing we can do is be quiet. Turn off the noise. Go for a walk without your phone. Drive with no music. Ask Him to speak—and actually wait long enough to listen.

You might be surprised by how clearly you begin to hear the whisper that’s been there all along: “This is the way.”

### REFLECTION

- How can you quiet the noise in your life to better hear God’s voice?



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### Friday: Yes, God Speaks to You

*Scripture: John 10:27*

*[27] My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (ESV)*

Jesus didn't say some sheep hear His voice. He didn't limit it to the "spiritually elite." He simply said, "My sheep hear My voice." Period.

If you belong to Him—you can hear Him.

And yet, if we're honest, it's easy to doubt that. We picture God speaking to "professional" Christians—pastors, authors, missionaries—or to those "extra holy" people who seem to live in constant fasting and prayer. And we quietly wonder, Why would He want to talk to me?

Maybe we've been waiting for a dramatic moment—a booming voice from the clouds, a message written on the wall, or a lightning-bolt kind of peace. But most of the time, hearing God isn't about volume or drama. It's about relationship.

It's about being close enough, still enough, and trusting enough to recognize His voice—on a random Friday—in the middle of meetings, kid chaos, grocery runs, emails, or laundry.

You don't have to strive or stress to hear Him. You can rest in the truth that He's already speaking. Your role is to tune your heart to listen. He knows you. He's guiding you. And He's speaking—not just to pastors, Bible study leaders, or the lady who always has a "word." (Nothing against her—but you don't need to go through her, or anyone else, to hear from God.)

So lean in. He's speaking to you.

### REFLECTION

- Do you truly believe God speaks to you personally?  
If not, what's holding you back from trusting that He does?



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