

SEEKING GOD

Purpose: Seeking God is a study to clarify what it takes to pursue a relationship with God. This study provides inspiration to seek God and allows the seeker to take a big first step towards seeking God by committing to reprioritize and make time for church worship services and setting aside the time every week to complete the remaining first principles studies.

Acts 8:26-35

The Ethiopian Eunuch was a very important and busy official (*"in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians."*) Yet he made time, sacrifices and overcame many challenges in his journey to seek and find God.

Q: Tell me about your journey to find God?

Q: What have been the significant events in your spiritual journey?

Jeremiah 29:11-13

This was written to the Israelites in exile. They had been sent into exile because they ignored and defied God in their life and they reaped the consequences. However, God was communicating with these same people and he was telling them that he had "plans" for them. These plans included plans to "prosper" them, and give them "hope" and a "future." Remember, these are the people who had ignored and defied God in the past. How amazing is it that God still had great plans for them and wanted to give them a great life?

Q: Do you believe that God has great plans for you and wants you to have a great life?

Q: What does Jeremiah tell the exiles they needed to do in order to see His plans for them become a reality in their lives? (*"Seek me with all your heart"*)

Q: Have you ever done anything with all your heart? What?

Q: How much effort did you put into it? Explain.

Q: What do you think seeking God with all your heart would look like for you if you did so?

Q: What kind of specific things would you be doing?

Q: Have you been seeking God with *"all your heart"*?

Luke 13:22-28

Q: What was the question that someone asked Jesus in this passage? (*"Are only a few going to be saved?"*)

Q: Why do you think they asked this question? (Read Matthew 7:13-14; Jesus' teachings were radical and convicting.)

Q: What was Jesus' answer to the question? (*"Make every effort...many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to."*)

Q: What was the point behind Jesus' story about the owner who closed the door? (The point is that you don't want to be caught off guard and be rejected from the kingdom of God.)

Q: Were the people in this story surprised that they could not enter? (Yes.)

Q: Why were they surprised? (They said and thought that they had a relationship with the owner, but the owner said to them *"I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!"*)

Q: When it came to these people, was it enough to acknowledge Jesus, be around Jesus, and listen to his teachings?

Q: In order for people to take their place at the feast in the kingdom of God, how much effort is it going to take to get their? (Every effort.)

Q: Have you been making every effort when it comes to your relationship with God?

Matthew 6:25-33

Q: How can the responsibilities and worries of our lives be obstacles to having a relationship with God?

Q: What are some of the responsibilities and worries that keep you from seeking God with all your heart and making every effort in your relationship with Him?

Q: What does Jesus tell us to do?

Q: When Jesus says, "do not"; do you think it's okay to do it anyway?

Q: What does Jesus want us to do instead of worry? (*"Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness..."*)

Q: What would it look like if you were to seek first *"His kingdom and His righteousness"*?

Q: Today, are you ready to decide to seek God with all your heart and make every effort in your relationship with God?

Q: Are you willing to seek first *"His kingdom and His righteousness"*?

Challenge: Put the kingdom first – make a commitment to attend worship services. Put righteousness (growing in your relationship with God) first – set a day/time aside for the next 8 weeks to complete the first principles studies to deepen your relationship with God.

Additional verses:

Matthew 13:44-46 – Finding God is like finding a great treasure or a valuable pearl.

Acts 17:22-27 – God determines the "times" and "places" so that we will seek him and reach out for him.

2 Chronicles 15:1-4 – "The LORD is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you."