

God Pursues Us

Ready:

“For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.” -- Ezekiel 34:11

Set

As coaches and athletes, we pursue our sport with conviction, determination and perseverance. We give it our all and we seek the best possible outcome. We invest a great amount of time, energy and resources to this end.

As Christ-followers, pursuing God is our first priority and drives everything else we do. As we pursue God, out of our love for Him and obedience to Him, we pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness (1 Timothy 6:11-12). FCA's theme this year is PURSUE, and the study guide developed for this theme outlines eight areas to pursue: Truth, Faith, Life, Identity, Growth, Team, Excellence and Mission.

But it all begins with God pursuing us. God is the One who initiates the relationship. He calls us and we respond. Before time began, God had each of us on His mind (Psalm 139). He created us, loves us unconditionally and continually and relentlessly pursues us. We are the center of His attention! There is nothing we could do to keep God from pursuing us. The entire Bible is the story of God creating us in His image, loving us and pursuing us. It's all about the relationship.

The twenty-third Psalm is a beautiful example of God pursuing us. He makes us lie down in green pastures, He leads us beside still waters, He refreshes our souls, He guides us along the right paths, He is with us, He comforts us, He prepares us, He anoints us, His goodness and love follow us all the days of our lives.

God gives it His all in pursuing us. He sent His Son to die on the cross for us, and He wants the best possible outcome for our lives. He has invested everything to pursue us and have a personal relationship with us. In return, we should go after Him with everything we've got, experiencing the fullness of His love, seeking Him first (Matthew 6:33) and His purpose and plan for our lives.

As we live out our life mission of pursuing God, let us remember that it is He who first pursued us and continues to pursue us. He is the reason we exist and the reason we serve. As He seeks and finds us, let us respond as Isaiah did, “Here am I. Send me!”

Go

- Think about the sport you are passionate about and how much you pursue it. Now

consider how God pursues you even more passionately.

- Do you feel like there are things you do and decisions you make that would cause God not to pursue you? Embrace the truth that there is nothing you can do that would keep God from pursuing you.
- Take a few minutes to thank God for relentlessly pursuing and loving you.

Workout

Luke 19:10; Matthew 18:12; John 4:23

Overtime

“Father, it’s almost hard to comprehend that You would pursue us and love us unconditionally, the God of the universe. Thank You for Your amazing grace and mercy. Thank You for inviting us into Your family and giving our lives meaning and purpose. By Your Holy Spirit’s power, help us to pursue You and godliness with every step we take in our faith journey.”

Bible Reference:

Ezekiel 34:11

Luke 19:10

Matthew 18:12

John 4:23



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