



Choosing to Pursue Jesus – Week 2

Personal or group-based guide for additional study

Lessons: Stopping Sin to Pursue Jesus

Opening Prayer

Key Scripture: Hebrews 12:1

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor emphasized that God has a purpose for each of us. How does knowing this impact your daily life and decisions?
2. What are some examples of "weights" that might slow us down in our spiritual journey? How are these different from sin?
3. The sermon discussed various types of sin. Which ones do you find most prevalent or challenging in today's society?
4. How does the idea of sin "entangling" us resonate with your personal experiences?
5. The pastor suggested that a core sin might be trying to take God's place in our lives. In what areas of your life do you struggle with this?
6. How does the concept of God cleansing us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9) impact your view of past sins and moving forward in faith?
7. What does it mean to you to "endure" in your spiritual race? What challenges have you faced in this area?



Key Takeaways:

1. God has a unique purpose for each of us.
2. Sin hinders us from fulfilling our God-given purpose.
3. We need to identify and lay aside both weights and sins that slow us down.
4. Confessing our sins leads to complete forgiveness and cleansing from God.
5. Endurance is crucial in our spiritual journey, even through difficulties.

Practical Applications:

1. Self-reflection: Take time this week to prayerfully consider any sins or weights that might be hindering your spiritual growth.
2. Accountability: Partner with someone in the group to help each other in areas where you struggle with sin.
3. Memorize 1 John 1:9 as a reminder of God's forgiveness and cleansing power.
4. Practice "acknowledging God in all your ways" by intentionally seeking His guidance in daily decisions.
5. Identify one area where you tend to rely on your own understanding rather than God's wisdom. Make a plan to surrender this area to God.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His forgiveness and cleansing power. Ask for strength to lay aside sins and weights, and for endurance to run the race set before us.