



## A Good Word Week 4 – PURSUE Spiritual Formation & Discussion Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at [info@wschurch.org](mailto:info@wschurch.org).

### Scripture:

<sup>11</sup> But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6:11-12 NLT

In the path of righteousness is life,  
and in its pathway there is no death.

Proverbs 12:28 ESV

As the deer longs for streams of water,  
so I long for you, O God.

<sup>2</sup> I thirst for God, the living God.

When can I go and stand before him?

Psalms 42:1-2 NLT

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."  
John 6:35 ESV

<sup>9</sup> But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

1 Timothy 6:9-10

<sup>32</sup>These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.<sup>33</sup>Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Matthew 6:32-33 NLT

### Reflection Questions:

- Have you ever wanted something so badly that you couldn't think about anything else until you got it? What did that desire feel like? What did you do to pursue it?
- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God encouraging and challenging you through the songs, the message, and being with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you reflect.)
- What are some of the things you're pursuing (working toward, chasing) in this season of life?
- Read 1 Timothy 6:11-12. If you have time, read some of the verses around it for more context. What do you notice in Paul's words to Timothy, a younger leader?
- Every path has a destination. Read Proverbs 12:28. Consider reading it in several translations (NIV, NLT, The Message, etc.). What wisdom is there in walking the path of righteousness?
- Pause and think about the path you're walking on in your life right now. If you're on a path that leads somewhere you don't want to go, pause right now and talk to a trusted friend about how you can stop and redirect your steps.
- What would it look like practically for you to pursue righteousness? Write out some ideas and if you're sharing with others, make a list together.
- Take a moment to sit with this question: **In the deepest part of who you are, what do you desire?** After a moment, write out your response as honestly as you can.
- TJ shared, "**don't pursue a goal; pursue a person. Pursue Jesus.**" Read Psalm 42:1-2. What do you hear in this honest prayer? Do you notice any of those same feelings inside of you?
- Read John 6:35. How do you respond to Jesus' promise in this verse?
- Read 1 Timothy 6:9-10 and Matthew 6:32-33. How have you seen these things to be true? What might God be saying to you through these verses about what to pursue?
- Listen to "This is the Kingdom" by Elevation Worship – what might it look like for you to seek God's kingdom first this week? (Get specific.)
- Is there anything else from this teaching that you want to explore more?
- Take time to pray as you close your time of reflection or discussion. Try to spend some time quietly, without words, letting God's love strengthen and empower you to pursue him.

Want some resources and ideas for how to grow spiritually?

We are spotlighting our resource, "**How to Pray and Read the Bible,**" which you can get at our Next Steps Area or access online at [https://www.wschurch.org/content/pdf/How2PrayBible\\_Digital.pdf](https://www.wschurch.org/content/pdf/How2PrayBible_Digital.pdf).

Visit [www.wschurch.org/resources](http://www.wschurch.org/resources) to see additional tools and resources.

### Message Main Points and Scripture:

- PURSUE
- we all pursue things

- 1 Timothy 6:11-12 NLT – “<sup>11</sup>But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. <sup>12</sup>Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses.”
- **diókō**
- **we reject what is less so we can embrace more**
- Proverbs 12:28 ESV – “In the path of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death.”
- **If you don’t want to end up at a certain place... don’t get on the path that leads there!**
- 1 Timothy 6:12 - “<sup>12</sup>Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses.”
- **we must reject what is less so we can experience more**
- Psalm 42:1-2 NLT – “As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God.  
<sup>2</sup>I thirst for God, the living God.  
When can I go and stand before him?”
- **Don’t pursue a goal; pursue a person. Pursue Jesus.**
- John 6:35 ESV – “Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.’”
- **we reject what is less so we can embrace more**
- 1 Timothy 6:9-10 – “<sup>9</sup>But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction.<sup>10</sup>For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.”
- Matthew 6:32-33 NLT – “<sup>32</sup>These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.<sup>33</sup>Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.”
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- **We reject what is less so we can embrace more.**