



## CORNERSTONE 2010 Theme & Curriculum Guide

### Pursue *Pursuing A Righteous Life*

#### **1 Timothy 6:11 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

#### **2 Timothy 2:22 (NIV)**

<sup>22</sup> Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

#### **1 Peter 3:11 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it.

#### **Colossians 3:1 (MSG)**

<sup>1</sup> So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, *act* like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides.

#### **1 Timothy 6:11 (MSG)**

<sup>11</sup> But you, Timothy, man of God: Run for your life from all this. Pursue a righteous life—a life of wonder, faith, love, steadiness, courtesy.

Daily themes will focus on the ways that “God pursues us.” Psalm 136 is full of illustrations of God’s work to rescue and pursue his people. Each day will focus one of the channels that God has used to reveal Himself to his people and call them back to relationship with him.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>PLAN</b>	<b>God pursues us in His creation PLAN.</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>PROCLAIM</b>	<b>God pursues us through his Word PROCLAIMED.</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>PROVIDE</b>	<b>God pursues us through PROVIDING Christ</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>God pursues us through PLACING the Holy Spirit within us.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>PEOPLE</b>	<b>God pursues us by using his PEOPLE to surround us.</b>

## **Sunday *PLAN***

### ***God pursues us in His Creation PLAN.***

God has revealed his creative power through the wonders of creation, and has also instilled facets of His own character in us to help us know Him through our inborn passions, talents and personalities.

*Other suggested verses:* Romans 1:20

*Suggested Resources or illustrations:*

- Creation Calls video (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwGvfdtI2c0>)

## **Monday *PROCLAIM***

### ***God pursues us in His Word PROCLAIMED.***

**Old Testament/ Patriarchs, Law and Prophets – Jonah 1-4, esp 4:2 & 4:10-11**

Prophets called God's people back to actually being God's people (caring for the poor, not going through the worship motions and actually loving people). This shows that God pursues us and corrects us because he wants more for us than a mediocre life. He wants us to live in the kingdom, and not just be people who sit in the pew.

*Other suggested verses:* Jeremiah 33, Jonah, 2 Chronicles 24:19, Jeremiah 25:4-7

## Tuesday **PROVIDE**

***God pursues us through PROVIDING Christ.***

**Christ – Hebrews 1:1-3, John 3:16**

The extent of God's love and His desire to be with us was evidenced by God's becoming man and dying on a cross. His love was evidenced by Jesus's stripping Himself of His goodness and taking on our sin so we could still live in His presence.

*Other suggested verses:* Revelation 3:20, Philippians 2:5-11

## Wednesday **PLACE**

***God pursues us by PLACING the Holy Spirit within us.***

**Holy Spirit – Romans 8:1-17**

The Holy Spirit is God ACTUALLY LIVING INSIDE US. God pursues us by making his residence within us and giving us supernatural ability to be the people God asks us to be (think prophets - HE gives us the ability to do that.)

*Other suggested verses:* Romans 5:1-5 & Titus 3:3-6, Hebrews 10:15-25

## Thursday **PEOPLE**

***God pursues us by using his PEOPLE to surround us (the church).***

**Church & Relationships – 2 Corinthians 5:11-21**

Some of the most powerful ways God speaks to us and pursues us are through others. The church is called to be the embodiment of Christ and so they are often the ones to audibly speak, and touch and love us for Him.

*Other suggested verses:* 1 Peter 2:1-12, 1 John 4:7-21, Colossians 3:1-17



## **CORNERSTONE 2010**

### **Class Topics and Descriptions**

The theme for classes are **ways we pursue God**. From 1 Peter 2:2-3 – “now that you have tasted that the Lord is good” what is your response? Each class will work through ways we can “taste” God. Teachers have lots of room for direction and creativity as we focus on ways to pursue God

#### ***Pursuing God with Love***

**(Eph. 5:1-2)**

Objective: Explore love for others as a response to God’s love for us. If God is in pursuit of us, we should be pursuing others so that they may also know the love God has for them. The way we pursue others is through love.

*Other suggested verses:* 1 Peter 4:8 Colossians 3:12-14; 1 Cor 14:1

#### ***Pursing God with Joy***

Objective: To focus the idea” that joy transcends circumstance”.

In this story in Acts, Paul and Silas are in very difficult circumstances, yet they still have joy and are able to worship. We can be in distress and difficult times, but we have the comfort of knowing God is with us and we can rejoice in that.

*Other suggested verses:* 2 Cor 1:3-7 (excellent way to show how our joy extends to others); Phil 4:10-13; Ps 98:4; Isaiah 44:23; Psalm 30:11-12; Neh 8:10

### ***Pursing God with Peace***

#### **(Matthew 11:28-30)**

Objective: To focus on peace, rest, Sabbath.

We often are so busy or trying so hard that we never are able to just rest and be loved. Jesus offers peace in the midst of this – we don't have to perform, we can be at peace.

*Other suggested verses and ideas:* In Luke 4-6 we often see Jesus walking away from hurting people to rest and be alone with God, we also see Jesus talking to the Pharisees about how Sabbath is a gift to us, not a rule or regulation in Mark 2

### ***Pursing God with Patience***

#### **(Matt 18:21-35)**

Objective: Focus on the idea of patience through the lens of forgiveness.

It is much easier to be patient people when we recognize they are just as messed up as we are and forgive them, no matter what offense they may have done to us.

*Other suggested verses:* Philemon

### ***Pursing God with Kindness***

#### **(Matthew 5:43-48)**

Objective: Help students to understand that it is easy to be kind to people we like, but the Spirit's kindness extends to those who don't deserve it and the ones we have trouble showing kindness

*Other suggested verses:* 1 Pet 2:1-3;

### ***Pursing God with Gentleness***

#### **(1 Peter 3:8-16)**

Objective: Practical ways to communicate Christ with Gentleness.

Gentleness is not a response we often have towards others. When we are wronged we want revenge. Often, even our way over communicating Christ has little gentleness. We aren't supposed to be over-bearing and vengeful people, but people who respond with gentleness and kindness. Communicating Jesus is not beating people up, but telling them the reason we are gentle.

*Other suggested verses:* 2 Tim 2:24-25; Matt 20:25-28

### ***Pursuing God with Faith***

**(Matt 10:13-16)**

Objective: Helping students understand what it means to fully trust in God.

Faith can also be described as trust. In this story, Jesus shows us that we need to have a child-like trust in him. Picture the trust a child has when he is simply sitting in his mom or dad's lap. When things go bad, he is there. God really does love us, just as we are – we don't have to work for him to love us.

*Other suggested verses:* Eph 2:8; Hebrews 11

### ***Pursuing God with Self Control***

**(James 2:14-16)**

Objective: To focus on what it means to live out our faith – the things we need to be doing.

We often think of self-control as the "DO NOT'S" in life. Here we want Living by faith requires a great deal of self-control and requires us to pay attention to what we are doing. And when we live out our faith in this way, we show the world what God looks like.

*Other suggested verses:* Col. 3:17; 1 Peter 2:12; Matt 5:13-16

### ***Pursuing God with Goodness***

**(John 13:1-17)**

Objective: Help students to see that "goodness" comes from service to others.

This is one of the best stories illustrating that, but the other suggested verses here are excellent. Goodness doesn't mean "nice." It means being sacrificial servants of others – it is what we were built to do.

*Other suggested verses:* Rom 15:2; Eph 2:10; 1 Cor. 9:7-12