



Relentless Pursuit – Week 1

ADULT GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**GROUP PREP**

In preparation for group, [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

SOCIAL TIME (15-30 minutes)

Have an ice-breaker ready, eat a snack together, and/or go around the circle asking your group members to share any news since your last meeting. Be intentional in helping your group members feel connected during this time and make it fun.

Ice-Breaker suggestion: With Halloween out of the way, are you the sort of person who jumps straight into Christmas, or do you prefer to make Christmas wait its turn and let Thanksgiving have its moment to shine?

CHECK-IN TIME (15-30 minutes)

Talk about what you did last week to complete your action step.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (45-60 minutes)

Emmanuel Church exists to see people Come to Christ and Grow in Christ. We often say we are on a *Relentless Pursuit* of the people in our life far from Christ. We love to invite our friends far from Christ to church. When the opportunity is presented, we love telling people how Jesus has saved us from our past and is remaking our future. This is the *Relentless Pursuit*, and it takes every single one of us to reach those who are far from Christ.

1. Have you heard of our vision of Relentless Pursuit before? What does it mean to you?
2. Have you ever had someone pay a debt for you, or pick up the tab when you weren't expecting it? When you think of how God gave his son to cover the debt for your sins, how does it make you feel?
3. Read [James 2:10](#) and [Matthew 5:13](#). If someone were to look at your life as it is today, would they know you follow Jesus? How would they be able to tell? Is there an area of your life you could put some effort into to become a more credible witness with those you are wanting to pursue?
4. Everyone knew Matthew was a tax collector and sinner, but once his life was changed, Matthew wouldn't stop inviting people to meet Jesus. Your life is the message, but you must be prepared to speak up, too.

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[1 Peter 3:15](#) challenges us to “*worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.*” Do you find it easy or hard to speak up? Why?

5. According to a recent [Barna study](#), only 1 in 4 Americans are practicing Christian’s. That means that 294 million people in this country are failing to live an abundant life in God presently and are facing a very real future in hell without the love of God.

Who do you know that is 1 of the 294 million? When you pay attention to the community around you, do you see evidence of people living life without God?

How does the burden feel different when you start to realize that it is not only affecting their present life, but their eternity, too?

How can you intentionally be seeking to invite those people to hear about the love of God?

ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the following or create your own. Consider finding an accountability partner within your group to walk alongside you this week.

- **Journal:** Pastor Danny gave 3 things to focus on: **our burden for the lost, our credibility, and speaking up.** If one of these is particularly hard for you, spend time journaling about it and praying for the Lord to grow you in that area.
- **Scripture:** Meditate on and/or memorize related verses: [James 2:10](#), [1 Peter 3:15](#), [Matthew 3:8](#),
- **Pursue Others:** Write down the name of 1 or 2 people that you will relentlessly pursue. Commit to praying for them to have hearts that are open to the Lord and commit to speak up and invite them.
- **Get Uncomfortable:** Commit to engaging in a conversation with a stranger and invite them to church this week.
- **Get Accountable:** Find a friend, share the changes you are going to make, and allow them space to hold you accountable to those changes.
- **Daily time with God:** Determine the type of routine you’d like to have that allows you to spend time learning about what pleases God. Here are some ways to do this:
 - [Download the Emmanuel app](#) and read the One Year New Testament daily.
 - If you recently placed your faith in Christ and texted SAVED to 65248, read the devotional provided in your starter kit.



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PRAYER (5-10 minutes)

Ask your group to share two things

- Prayer requests for themselves and the people in their lives.
- Ask also for any reason to praise. It is great to come to God in thanksgiving for all He has done.

Keep note of the burdens in people's lives and notice when God moves in those areas specifically. We believe God will see prayers become praise and it is an opportunity to increase our faith when we are in the position to bring that to light.

GROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Partner with The Refuge to stock their pantry shelves with boxed food as we head into cooler months. For information on how to get involved visit their therefugeinc.com/get-involved. For any questions reach out to Breanne De Avila at bdeavila@eclife.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Be the Change | Now through November 4

Middle School Hangout | November 11

Impact Team Night | November 14

You can find more information on all of these events at eclife.org.