



START HERE

GOD INVITES US TO EXPERIENCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Leader, please make these available to your group.

MENS BIBLE STUDY

Sign ups are open for a new study called Authentic Manhood. The Study begins on Feb 8 Tuesdays at 7pm

BASICS - Grow Class

Starts this Wednesday and is a great class if you are new to the faith or for anyone who wants to get better grounding in why we believe what we believe.





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GOD INVITES US TO EXPERIENCE

Week 24 | This One Thing | Genesis 24:62-67

GOD KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING EVEN WHEN IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO US

Several years ago, Rachel and I led a tour to Turkey to visit the cities of the seven churches in Revelation. Most tours make a customary stop at a business where Turkish rugs are made. We decided it would be fun for our group, so we made the call. After the generous greeting we received from the staff, which included a full complement of Turkish tea and cookies, the owner presented himself in grand style. He was decked out in a white suit with leather loafers and moved among his staff like Scorsese's Godfather. "Turkish mafia" was the first thought that came to mind. His staff stood at attention like soldiers until he snapped his fingers. A meticulously choreographed routine ensued, and the most beautiful Turkish rugs, intricately designed and full of color, were rolled out before our eyes. The 'oohs' and 'aahs' from our team were incessant. But what amazed me the most was the contrast I observed between the front and back of the rugs. The backside seemed to have no rhyme or reason. It followed no distinguishable pattern, no order, and looked chaotic. The frontside, however, couldn't have been more ordered. Every thread is placed with the utmost care, having its place in the overall artistic image displayed by the rug.

I'm not sure if there's a better illustration of the difference between our finite perspective and God's infinite perspective. While life may look chaotic and without order or reason to us. Every fabric of thread that God is fitted into our lives has an essential and divine purpose. The key for us is to remember that our God and Father knows best.

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



PRAY (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time to ask God to lead you into a deeper and more authentic relationship with Him. Ask Him to reveal decisions that need to be made in your life that will draw you into a greater pursuit of Him in concrete ways.



REFLECT (25 min)

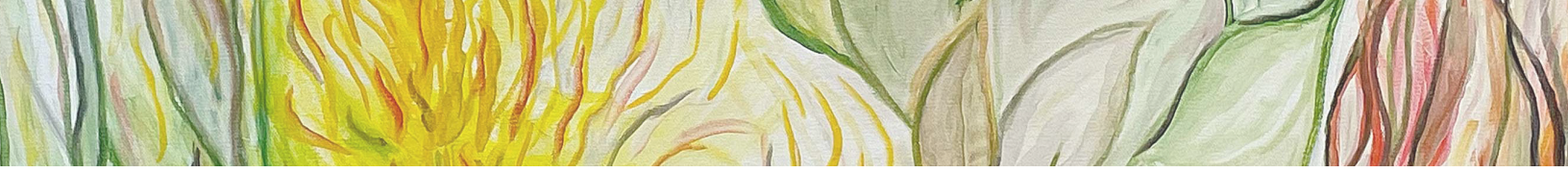
As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Derek said, "Our perception of God will determine how we perceive His handling of our lives."

What did he mean by that? How is that true for you? How can a more biblical perspective of God enable you to see your life and life circumstances the right way?

God is not the Godfather; He is our God and Father.





2. Isaac kept himself in the right place while God was bringing the details of his life together. According to the teaching, that meant he was saturating himself with thoughts of God and with times of stillness and solitude before God. Those three aspects of pursuing God were evident in the daily life of Christ and should also be evident in yours.

Do some self-evaluation. Where are the success and failures in terms of your time with God, and how can you grow?

Meditation isn't emptying your mind of everything; it's filling your mind and heart with God.

Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

Mark 1:35

3. Pastor Derek described how some stories in the Old Testament are types and shadows pointing to the ultimate story of the gospel in the New Testament.

For example, describe how Genesis 24 is a type that points to God's plan for His Son, for you and heaven.



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

Psalm 46:10-11

Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.



REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, be intentional about saturating yourself in God's Word and seeking times of stillness and solitude. Have one expectation, to give Him what He deserves in worship.

We will be waiting with anticipation to hear what God did in your life as you pursued Him.

