



SEEKING THE FACE OF GOD

SMALL GROUP
HOST GUIDE



LOOK TO THE
LORD
AND HIS
STRENGTH
SEEK HIS
FACE
ALWAYS



SEEKING THE FACE OF GOD

**SMALL GROUP
HOST GUIDE**

HELLO LEADER!

IT'S WHEN WE SEEK GOD'S FACE THAT OUR LIVES ARE TRULY TRANSFORMED!

I want to personally thank you for saying “yes” to leading a small group at Church on the Rock. Your willingness to lead, serve, and walk alongside others is such a vital part of our mission to lead people to a God who is for them and help them discover His purpose for their life.

This season, our focus is on Seeking the Face of God. Together, we'll discover from God's Word that seeking Him is more than a moment or a habit. It's an intentional pursuit of His presence, His heart, and His will for our lives. When we seek God wholeheartedly, He draws near, brings clarity, strengthens our faith, and transforms us from the inside out.

I believe these sessions will be impactful, not only for those in your group, but for you as a leader as well. My prayer is that as you guide these conversations, people will grow deeper in their relationship with God, become more sensitive to His presence, and learn what it truly means to seek Him daily.

Thank you again for leading with faithfulness and obedience. I'm grateful for you and excited to see how God will use you and your group this season.

God is for you!
Pastor David Blunt



SMALL GROUP REPORT EXAMPLE

Uprising Youth - High School Small Groups Attendance

Attendance For
Wednesday, September 3, 2025

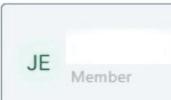
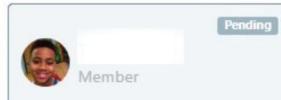
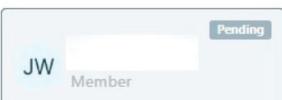
We Did Not Meet

Schedule
Wednesday at 7:00 PM

Filter: All **Present** **Add Note**

How did the small group go and do you have any questions?

Today' group went well! We are praying for Briyonna and her family as they relocate to O'Fallon. We are also planning to sit together in the upcoming Sunday service. |

 JE Member	 Montgomery, Briyonna Leader	 Pending
 JW Member		

Back

● To eliminate confusion when managing your roster, we suggest to keep members pending until they show up to your group.

SESSION ONE

THE ANSWER TO LIFE'S CHALLENGES

OVERVIEW:

LIKE MOSES, WE ENDURE BY KEEPING OUR GAZE ON GOD AND HIS FUTURE FOR US; LETTING THAT VISION SHAPE HOW WE LIVE NOW.



KEY SCRIPTURES

- ¹ How joyful are those who fear the Lord—
all who follow his ways!
- ² You will enjoy the fruit of your labor.
How joyful and prosperous you will be!

PSALM 128:1–2 (NLT)



KEY POINTS

- Seeking God is the answer when life feels overwhelming.
- We are called to seek God's face, not just His hand.
- Loving God, humility, and obedience position us for joy.
- There is a reward for seeking God: prosperity, happiness, and well-being.
- God is for you, present with you, and near you in every season.

DISCUSSION



1 WHAT SITUATIONS IN YOUR LIFE HAVE DRIVEN YOU TO SEEK GOD MORE DEEPLY?

2 WHY DO YOU THINK PEOPLE OFTEN SEEK GOD'S HAND BEFORE SEEKING GOD HIMSELF?

3 HOW DOES KNOWING THAT GOD IS "FOR YOU" CHANGE HOW YOU APPROACH CHALLENGES?

ACTION STEP:

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK, SET ASIDE A SPECIFIC TIME TO INTENTIONALLY SEEK GOD THROUGH PRAYER AND THE ONE YEAR BIBLE.

PRAYER FOCUS:

ASK GOD TO DRAW YOU CLOSER TO HIM AND HELP YOU DESIRE HIS PRESENCE MORE THAN ANSWERS.



SESSION TWO

DISCOVERING GOD'S PLAN BY SEEKING HIM

OVERVIEW:

GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE, BUT THAT PURPOSE IS DISCOVERED ONLY THROUGH SEEKING HIM WHOLEHEARTEDLY. WHEN WE SEEK THE GOD OF THE PLAN, HE REVEALS THE PLAN OF GOD.



KEY SCRIPTURES

- ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.
- ¹² In those days when you pray, I will listen.
- ¹³ If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

JEREMIAH 29:11-13 (NLT)



KEY POINTS

- God has intentional plans for your life, filled with hope and purpose.
- Purpose is revealed through seeking, not striving.
- God responds when we seek Him with all our heart, not half-heartedly.
- Our choices today affect future generations.
- Seeking God brings clarity, direction, and meaning.



DISCUSSION



1 WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SEEK GOD “WITH ALL YOUR HEART”?

2 CAN YOU IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE YOU’VE BEEN SEEKING ANSWERS WITHOUT SEEKING GOD?

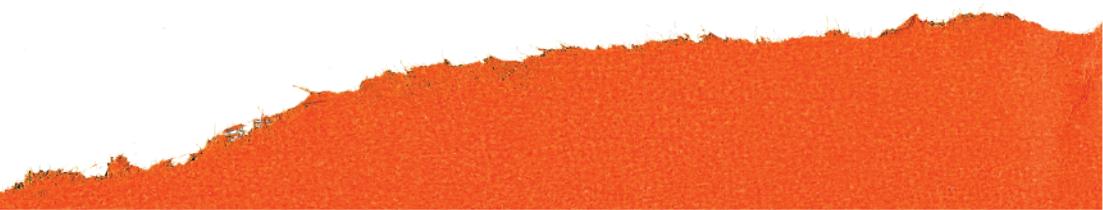
3 HOW DOES KNOWING GOD HAS A PLAN GIVE YOU PEACE ABOUT YOUR FUTURE?

ACTION STEP:

WRITE A PRAYER SURRENDERING YOUR PLANS TO GOD AND ASKING HIM TO REVEAL HIS PURPOSE.

PRAYER FOCUS:

PRAY FOR CLARITY, DIRECTION, AND COURAGE TO FOLLOW GOD’S PLAN WHOLEHEARTEDLY.



SESSION THREE

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD

OVERVIEW:

CLOSENESS TO GOD INCREASES TRUST IN GOD. WHEN WE DRAW NEAR TO HIM, OUR FAITH GROWS, OUR FOCUS SHIFTS, AND OUR PROBLEMS SHRINK IN PERSPECTIVE.



KEY SCRIPTURES

⁸ Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

JAMES 4:8 (NLT)



KEY POINTS

We initiate closeness with God; He responds by drawing near to us.

The closer we get to God, the more we trust Him.

Faith grows through fellowship with God.

What we focus on grows.

A prepared and humble heart positions us to hear God.

DISCUSSION



1 WHAT DISTRACTIONS KEEP YOU FROM DRAWING NEAR TO GOD?

2 HOW HAS FOCUSING ON PROBLEMS IMPACTED YOUR FAITH?

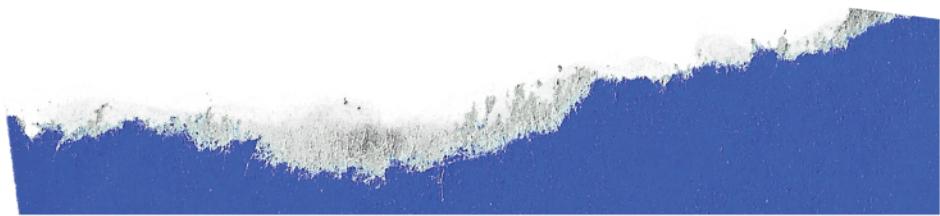
3 WHAT HABITS HELP YOU CONSISTENTLY DRAW CLOSER TO GOD?

ACTION STEP:

REMOVE ONE DISTRACTION THIS WEEK TO CREATE SPACE FOR FOCUSED TIME WITH GOD.

PRAYER FOCUS:

ASK GOD TO HELP YOU DRAW NEAR AND REPLACE FEAR WITH TRUST.



SESSION FOUR

SEVEN WAYS TO SEEK THE LORD

OVERVIEW:

SEEKING GOD IS INTENTIONAL. SCRIPTURE GIVES US PRACTICAL WAYS TO PURSUE HIM DAILY AND EXPERIENCE TRANSFORMATION, CLARITY, AND PEACE.



KEY SCRIPTURES

¹⁸ The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

PSALM 34:18 (NLT)



KEY POINTS

- 1 Put God first.
- 2 Make time for Him daily.
- 3 Prepare your heart.
- 4 Think about Him throughout the day.
- 5 Talk to others about Him.
- 6 Look for ways to honor Him.
- 7 Learn to be still and hear His voice.

Seeking God requires priority, consistency, and humility.

God speaks to those who prepare their hearts to listen.



DISCUSSION



1 WHICH OF THE SEVEN WAYS IS EASIEST FOR YOU? WHICH IS HARDEST?

2 HOW DOES DAILY TIME WITH GOD IMPACT YOUR MINDSET?

3 WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO HONOR GOD IN EVERYDAY LIFE?

ACTION STEP:

CHOOSE ONE OF THE SEVEN WAYS AND INTENTIONALLY PRACTICE IT THIS WEEK.

PRAYER FOCUS:

ASK GOD TO HELP YOU BUILD CONSISTENT HABITS THAT DRAW YOU CLOSER TO HIM.

SESSION FIVE

WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT, YOU CONNECT TO

OVERVIEW:

SEEKING GOD BEGINS IN THE MIND. WHAT WE CONSISTENTLY THINK ABOUT DETERMINES WHAT WE CONNECT TO. WHEN GOD FILLS OUR THOUGHTS, HIS PRESENCE FILLS OUR LIVES.



KEY SCRIPTURES

- ⁶ Only fools say in their hearts,
“There is no God.”
They are corrupt, and their actions are evil;
not one of them does good!

PSALM 14:1 (NLT)

- ⁶ Seek the Lord while you can find him.
Call on him now while he is near.

ISAIAH 55:6 (NLT)



KEY POINTS

Thinking about God is a powerful way to seek Him.

What you put your mind on, you connect with.

Pride keeps people from seeking God.

God looks for those who intentionally seek Him.

Seeking God attracts His presence, strength, and peace.

DISCUSSION



1 WHAT OCCUPIES MOST OF YOUR THOUGHTS DURING THE DAY?

2 HOW DOES THINKING ABOUT GOD CHANGE YOUR EMOTIONS AND DECISIONS?

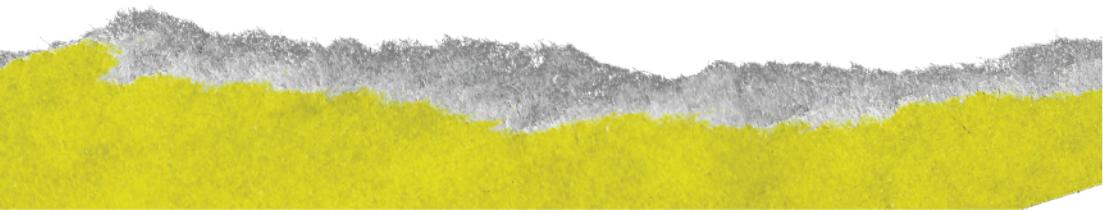
3 WHAT PRACTICAL REMINDERS HELP YOU KEEP GOD ON YOUR MIND?

ACTION STEP:

SET THREE DAILY REMINDERS ON YOUR PHONE FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS. WHEN EACH REMINDER GOES OFF, PAUSE, INTENTIONALLY THINK ABOUT GOD, AND ACKNOWLEDGE HIS PRESENCE.

PRAYER FOCUS:

ASK GOD TO RENEW YOUR MIND AND ALIGN YOUR THOUGHTS WITH HIS TRUTH.



SESSION SIX

DISCOVERING WHO YOU ARE BY SEEKING GOD

OVERVIEW:

WHEN WE SEEK GOD, WE NOT ONLY DISCOVER HIM—WE DISCOVER OURSELVES. IDENTITY, PURPOSE, AND SIGNIFICANCE ARE REVEALED IN HIS PRESENCE.



KEY SCRIPTURES

- 6 Seek the Lord while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near.
- 7 Let the wicked change their ways and banish the very thought of doing wrong.
Let them turn to the Lord that he may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously.
- 8 “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.
- 9 For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

ISAIAH 55:6–9 (NLT)



KEY POINTS

God’s thoughts and ways are higher than ours.

Seeking God involves exchanging our thoughts for His.

God’s Word transforms our thinking.

In seeking God, we discover:

- Our identity • Our calling
- Our “why” • Our purpose
- Our significance

God’s Word always accomplishes what He intends.

DISCUSSION



1 HOW HAS SEEKING GOD SHAPED YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHO YOU ARE?

2 WHAT CHANGES WHEN YOU SEE YOURSELF THROUGH GOD'S PERSPECTIVE?

3 HOW CAN RENEWING YOUR MIND TRANSFORM YOUR FUTURE DECISIONS?

ACTION STEP:

COMMIT TO DAILY BIBLE READING AS A WAY TO EXCHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS FOR GOD'S.

PRAYER FOCUS:

THANK GOD FOR REVEALING YOUR IDENTITY AND PURPOSE AS YOU SEEK HIM.



IDEAS TO HELP PEOPLE GROW

- Invite them to sit with you in a Sunday Service.
- Share your personal story and what God has been teaching you.
- Share how God is for You Classes can help them grow and encourage them to join a team.
- Invite them to check out the COTR Backstage podcast (backstage.cotr.org).
- Invite them to be water baptized (encourage your Small Group to be there).
- Share your spiritual habits; how you find time regularly to pray, worship, and read God's Word. Encourage them to make their own time with God.
- Invite them to come to special events at COTR.
- Tell them about our COTR Website, COTR App, and One Year Bible reading plan.
 - Watch past messages
 - Give
 - Stay connected
- If they are ready to receive Christ, offer to pray with them.
 - Ask God to forgive you of your sins (Romans 6:23, Romans 3:10, Titus 3:5-7)
 - Believe Jesus is God's Son and died for humanity (1 John 4:15, John 1:14, Romans 5:8)
 - Confess Jesus is Lord of your life (Matthew 10:32, Romans 10:9)
 - Declare that you are filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-8)
- **Example Prayer:**
"Heavenly Father, I repent. I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, He died for me and He rose again. Jesus, come into my heart. I receive you now as my Lord and my Savior. Fill me with the Holy Spirit. Take my life and make a difference. Amen."

TIPS/TOOLS

- **When is childcare available?**

We have childcare available on campus on Saturday afternoons at 2pm and Sunday mornings during our 11am service.

- **Where can I host my Small Group?**

You can host online, at church, and off site. Some of the most common meeting places are homes, restaurants, parks, coffee shops, and office buildings.

- **What are things we avoid in Small Groups?**

- Self-promotion
- Take offerings
- Unapproved materials or speakers
- Controversial topics and politics

- **How to prepare for your group?**

- Arrive early
- Creating the right environment
- Test and have video ready
- Welcome everyone
- Warm up the group with an ice breaker (Tell me about your week)
- Discuss this week's questions
- Ask for prayer requests
- Pray
- Encourage them to grow (look at ideas to help people grow)

- **What should I do if someone asks a question I can't answer?**

It's okay to not have all the answers. Thankfully, we can find guidance through prayer, God's Word, and the Holy Spirit. Encourage them to spend time reading the Bible and praying. Also, let them know that you will do your best to get some information and get back with them at your next Small Group meeting. Do some personal research and call your Coach to get advice.

- **Questions to ask yourself when your group attendance is inconsistent:**

- Does the meeting day/time work for everybody?
- Are you doing everything you can as a leader to help people engage outside the group?
- Are you texting them?
- Have you connected with them on a personal level? (Anniversary, birthdays, trips)
- Have you asked members for feedback?

- **How do I get my group serving?**

Encourage your group to get plugged into the Dream Team, by leading the way, talking about it, and inviting them to start by attending God is for You Classes.

- **What should I do if someone in my group shares something with me (or the group) that requires attention beyond what I (or we) can provide?**

If you encounter a difficult situation within your Small Group, please know that you are not alone. If a member is going through a crisis, you can rally the group around them to provide prayer and encouragement. Use wisdom and be sensitive to the situation. If you are unsure of what to do, don't hesitate to ask your Coach. Also, you and/or the group member can call the church office to the Small Groups Department at 636-294-7841 if needed.

- **Need a tip we didn't cover?**

Contact your Coach, they are there to serve you.

SMALL GROUP *HOST* EXPECTATIONS

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

- Complete God is for You Classes.
- Complete Background Check.
- Fill out Small Group online form (day, time, location).
- Attend and have your picture taken at the Small Group Training.
- Connect with your coach.
My coach's name:
My coach's contact info:
- Be open and honest with your group.
- Love your group well.
 - Pray for them
 - Lead them in discussion
 - Be full of grace
 - Invite members to attend every week
- Recruit members.
- Fill out your weekly report after each group meeting.
- Plan a party for the group's final meeting.
- Prioritize Sunday mornings (worship one, serve one).
- Contact those who sign up, introduce yourself, and share with them what to expect.
- Follow 70/30 Rule (70% of the group should talk / 30% of leadership should talk).
- Keep discussion positive (avoid politics, divisive issues, and negative talk).
- Respect boundaries (men minister to men and ladies minister to ladies).
- Serve at Small Group Rally by connecting with people and inviting them to sign up at cotr.org/groups for a Small Group.

ZOOM EXPECTATIONS

- Make sure to have a computer or laptop (iPad or tablet will not work).
- Select a separate day with your coach or co-leader to test Zoom and Pastor's video.
- If you have trouble with your internet while playing the video from the website, use the special link to download the videos onto your computer.
- Arrive on Zoom 15 minutes before starting time.
- Make sure you have emailed and texted each person in your group the Zoom link.
- If your group is meeting over 40 minutes, we recommend you purchase a Zoom subscription (but not required).
- Make sure to keep your camera on and facing you so your group can see you the entire time.
- Lead your group in a room that has good lighting where your group can see you.
- Encourage them if possible to put their camera on so you can see each other.

ONSITE (AT CHURCH) EXPECTATIONS

- Come early to prepare your room.
- Make sure lights are on in the room and everywhere your group will be (halls and areas near bathrooms).
- Leave the room as you found it (if you need to move chairs or tables, take a picture so you can put it back in the right spot).
- Take the trash out after your group finishes.
- Leave things better than you found them.
- Stay on time with your group (keep in mind that there could be a meeting right before or after your group).
- If something feels or looks wrong, please make a staff member aware immediately.
- Do not allow children to attend your group. Please utilize childcare (on Saturdays and Sundays).
- If an incident happens, please inform COTR staff member present and write up an incident report and also please contact your Small Group Coach immediately after your group.
- Avoid being alone with just one person at any time.

OFFSITE EXPECTATIONS

- Must have enough parking at the site for the people to attend.
- Make sure there's no object near the activity that can cause harm to anyone or cause any damage.
- Keep your pets contained and away from people to avoid bites and/or allergic reactions.
- The site must look like our church culture. House must be clean, no obscene pictures, or improper music.
- Avoid being alone with just one person at any time.
- Provide a private room for one person to change clothes (if needed for activity).
- Do not allow children to attend unless you have childcare staff member and approval from church leadership.
- If an incident happens, please write up an incident report and contact your Small Group Coach after your group.



SEEK HIS FACE ALWAYS

**⁸ GIVE PRAISE TO THE LORD, PROCLAIM HIS NAME;
MAKE KNOWN AMONG THE NATIONS WHAT HE HAS
DONE.**

**⁹ SING TO HIM, SING PRAISE TO HIM;
TELL OF ALL HIS WONDERFUL ACTS.**

**¹⁰ GLORY IN HIS HOLY NAME; LET THE HEARTS OF THOSE
WHO SEE THE LORD REJOICE.**

**¹¹ LOOK TO THE LORD AND HIS STRENGTH;
SEEK HIS FACE ALWAYS.**

**¹² REMEMBER THE WONDERS HE HAS DONE, HIS
MIRACLES, AND THE JUDGMENTS HE PRONOUNCED,**

**¹³ YOU HIS SERVANTS, THE DESCENDANTS OF ISRAEL,
HIS CHOSEN ONES, THE CHILDREN OF JACOB.**

**¹⁴ HE IS THE LORD OUR GOD;
HIS JUDGMENTS ARE IN ALL THE EARTH.**

**¹⁵ HE REMEMBERS HIS COVENANT FOREVER, THE
PROMISE HE MADE, FOR A THOUSAND GENERATIONS,**

1 CHRONICLES 16:8-15

