



My God is a lover who remains a lover. He pursues his bride when she is safe in his arms; he pursues his children who wander and know they need his rescue; and he pursues those who have scorned him, and don't even know how much they need him...he looks for ways to make himself known again, because he can't stop pursuing the one his soul loves. And that is you!

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

LOVING THE PURSUIT. Is there anything better than to be pursued by the one you love? Share how this is healthy and important in any relationship. Do you believe God pursues you?

SEEKING THE SAVED. Read **Jeremiah 29:13; James 4:8; 2 Chron 7:14; Isa 55:6-7; 57:15.** God pursues those who pursue Him. What does it mean to seek Him? **Follow up:** Read **Psalm 23:6 in the CEB or NLT.** This verse says goodness and mercy will "pursue" us all our lives. How is this good news? Discuss viewing God as the great lover, pursuing his bride.

SEEKING THE LOST. Read **Luke 15:3-7 & Matthew 18:11-13.** How do these gospels tell the parable of the lost sheep differently? What does this parable tell us about a God who seeks the lost? **Follow up:** Read **Luke 15:8-10.** How is a dead coin found by a live human a story about repentance?

THE PLAN OF SALVATION. Nathan made the point that God's plan for salvation "does not begin with me or end with me; it begins with a God who loves the world and ends with him keeping his promise to return." How can we better focus on God (rather than ourselves) when talking about salvation?

SEEKING THE BETRAYER. Read **Hosea 2:1-13.** Share your feelings as you imagine God as a dejected lover. Is He within his rights to imagine ways to punish or reject? How would you act if you were him? **Follow up:** Read **Hosea 2:14.** How is this unexpected? What does this "therefore" kind of love say about God?

APPLYING THE LESSON. Go around the room and finish this sentence: "God pursues me when I _____." Think of one or two people who need to hear that. How can you share this story of love with them?

Group Introduction Activity: Share how your spouse "pursued" you in dating, and how it is the same or different now.