

Aftermath

Pursuit for the Lost (January 17th, 2021)

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- You can watch the sermon online [HERE](#). **Then make sure to watch our [Special Series Video](#)!**
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.
- Review the learning objective to focus the conversation, read the primary scriptures as a group, summarize the main points, ask the questions, and use supporting texts to enhance the concepts.

DISCUSSION

Opening Prayer: (1-2 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's a suggestion of how your group can invite God into your time together.

Thank the Father for loving us so much that He came to us in the person of Jesus to offer Himself as a sacrifice on our behalf while we were still sinners! Pray that as we navigate the chaotic waters of our cultural moment that we would humbly listen and obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we seek to love one another just as Jesus loved us by dying for us on the cross. Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to remind us of the victory we have over sin in Jesus Christ! Finally, pray that as we look toward the horizon of a New Year that the Holy Spirit would search our hearts and continue to transform us into the likeness of His son!

Discussion: (45-60 minutes)

What's Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Danny led us into the second installment of our series titled *Aftermath*. Pastor Danny brings our attention to the parables found in *Luke 15:1-32* in order to challenge us with a “heart-check” when it comes to our relationship with the lost around our region. Pastor Danny suggests that in order to bridge the chasm between the church and the world around us that may be lost, it is going to require a fundamental change of heart as we lean into the example of Jesus and cultivate a culture of belonging.

“One of the most dangerous forms of division is the chasm that is forming between you and the lost people around you.” – Pastor Danny Strange

Suggested Questions

Check-In: Icebreaker – Has there ever been a time when you have lost something extremely important? Share the backstory to how you lost this item and all that you did to be able to find it (if you ever *did* find it)!

****NEW** Series Video:** Each week, a collection of ministry leaders will be recording a video that discusses Pastor Danny's sermon and how it may apply to our lives according to each demographic represented here at 3Crosses church! We recommend that you either encourage your group to watch the video *before* the meeting, or the video can make for a great opening activity for your group!



Objective #1: Reflect on the current state of your heart and mind for the lost.

Primary Texts: Luke 15:1-32; Jonah 4:11 – Pastor Danny's sermon focused on bridging the chasm that exists between the church and the lost world around us. He brings us to these three parables to challenge our religiously motivated hearts. In these passages, Jesus spends his time with the "tax collectors and sinners" exemplifying true humility, a true culture of belonging, and a true love for those who were far away. **As you think about these parables and reaching the lost within the context of a new year, what thoughts, emotions, or specific situations come to your heart and mind?**

Objective #2: Identify specific hurdles that keep you from connecting with the lost!

Selected Passages and Themes: Luke 4:14-30 (Jesus with the Outcasts); Luke 18:15-17 (Jesus Prepared for Interruption); John 21:15-19 (Admitting We are the Sheep); Philippians 4:4-9 (Overcoming Fear with Rejoicing) – In the roundtable discussion video, each of our ministry leaders spoke about different obstacles that we may face toward becoming a healthy community! **What specific hurdles have traditionally prevented you from connecting with the lost people in your life?**

Supporting texts: Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 66:18-24; Revelation 21:22-27 (Broader Worldview)

Objective #3: Commit to your next step of engaging with someone who may be lost!

Primary Texts: Luke 24:36-49; Acts 1:6-11, 2:1-13 – Finally, Pastor Danny challenges us to think about what we might be able to do to make people ask, "Why are you doing something like that?", in order to give us a chance to show that Jesus cares deeply for the lost. **How is the Lord calling you to be a witness to someone who is lost this year? Who in your sphere of influence can we begin to pray for that you are feeling led to connect with after this conversation?**

Closing Prayer: (5-10 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.

Thank our Heavenly Father for sending His son at the perfect time! Praise the Son for emptying himself by becoming a human so that he might give up his own life so that we could be free from the bondage of our spiritual enemy! Ask that the Holy Spirit would mold our hearts and continue to equip us to live, love, and forgive like Jesus. Finally, pray that we as a church would have the courage and boldness to proclaim the gospel of Jesus as we continue to bridge the chasm between the church and those who are lost!

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

-Stay up to date with Coronavirus Ministry Opportunities: Help us out by pointing the people in your Community Group to [3Crosses.org/coronavirus](https://3crosses.org/coronavirus). If you or anyone in your group is looking to serve food in our pantry, access spiritual care, or seek financial assistance, you can find all you need at [3Crosses.org/neighborhood](https://3crosses.org/neighborhood)

-Aftermath Series: Each week, we will be recording a message that includes a collection of our ministry leaders and helps explain this week's study guide! *Tune in at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday Nights* each week for the premier of the video or check it out anytime on our [YouTube channel](#)!

-Prayer: This week, think about how your group can proactively pray for specific people in your life. Try writing down the names mentioned in the discussion so that you can refer back to these names throughout this year! Later on in the group, continue to follow up on those names and choose a meeting to reflect on how the Lord has responded to the prayers of your group!

-Community Groups 2021: For more information about joining a group, leading a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at avanegas@3crosses.org