

**KNOW &  
EXPERIENCE  
GOD**

**FIND  
FRIENDS &  
FREEDOM**

**MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE**

**January 2nd, 2022**

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**TALK ABOUT IT**

## **TEACHING OVERVIEW**

This weekend Pastor Jackson kicked off the New Year by talking about opportunities and how not just in the new year, but each day we are able to take hold of those opportunities that are put in front of us. He shared about how opportunities are always happening, but that often we are in one of three phases: waiting, working, or wallowing. He shared how God has not called us to be in the wallowing phase, but that we are to either be working in these opportunities, or in the waiting/preparing phase.

## **Encouragement**

There are many names for God that come up in the Bible, but Jackson shared one specific name for God this weekend that we can find encouragement in today. The name El Roi means the God who sees you. We can find encouragement in that today, knowing that God sees us and cares for us in those moments. Spend some time talking with your Group about how you can find encouragement in that name this week and this new year.

## **Scripture & Discussion**

**Read:** [Proverbs 24:27](#)

### **Discuss**

1. Proverbs says, "Do your planning and prepare your fields before building your house." Jackson shared about how sometimes we are in the waiting seasons or the working seasons, but that there is an order. There are times for both of them, but we must make sure that we have spent time doing the preparing before we get to the working season. Talk with your Group about when you may have entered into a working season before you actually prepared. How did that go? Would you have been more successful if you had been preparing during that waiting season?

2. Spend some time talking with your Group about what season you feel like you may be in right now. The working or the waiting season, and how you can be intentional in that season to either be preparing, or to actually take action and get stuff done.

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## Scripture & Discussion

**Read:** [Ephesians 5:15-17](#)

### Discuss

1. This passage in Ephesians calls us to make the most of every opportunity in the days that we are living. Spend some time talking with your Group and share how you feel you have been doing with this in your own personal life. Take time to talk through what this verse can mean for you during this new year. What opportunities do you feel that God has put in front of you in this season?
2. Pastor Jackson shared a question for each of us to ask ourselves: what does it look like for me to eagerly await the return of Christ? Spend some time asking yourselves this and talking with your Group about what it looks like for each of you.
3. Often people talk about waiting for a golden opportunity, but Jackson shared that there often really isn't a golden opportunity, but that TODAY can be your opportunity. Spend time talking with your Group about how you can take today as your opportunity in whatever area you feel that God may be placing on your life. Also spend some time talking about how you can begin to shift your mindset from the "golden opportunity" to taking today as an opportunity.

## Prayer

Jackson shared that our God is the God who sees us. Spend time praying as a Group this week that each of you would begin to lean into that and truly live from a place that believes that truth.

Spend time praying this week for your Group and that each of you would be able to take hold of the opportunities that God has put in front of you. That you would be ready to either be in that waiting and preparing season, or the working season.

## Next Steps

The Group directory opens next week! Spend time this week thinking about what your next step might be in terms of Groups. It could be to invite someone new to your Group, to thinking about starting a new Group, or even to just begin praying for someone's heart who you have a desire to join a Group.