

SMALL GROUPS

Jeremiah 29:11-13 — God promises his people that he has a plan for them, that he will hear them when they call, and that they will find him when they seek him with their whole heart.

THE BIG IDEA

God is not simply looking for our attendance, our performance, or even our obedience to a list of rules. He wants our whole heart. A divided heart produces a divided life. But when we pursue God wholeheartedly, our desires change, our priorities realign, and we discover that seeking his presence is the very thing that unlocks his purpose for our lives.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Use these as anchors throughout your discussion.

- God does not want a piece of your life. He wants all of you.
- God never says seek the plan. He says seek me.
- Full surrender is not God taking something from you. It is God building something in you.
- Wholehearted seeking brings clarity, not because you suddenly have all the answers, but because you know and trust the one leading you.
- A whole heart creates an unshakable anchor. Whatever has your heart has the power to control you.

- Wholehearted surrender changes your priorities. You cannot pursue God wholeheartedly on accident.
- God often gives enough light for the next step, not enough information to remove the need for faith.
- A whole heart can trust God even when the blueprint does not match the plan you had in mind.

ICEBREAKER

Choose one to get the conversation started.

- What is something you have started halfway and never finished? What held you back from going all in?
- Think about a time when you desperately wanted a specific answer from God. What were you actually looking for in that season?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Section 1: God Wants All of You

1. The sermon pointed out that we can learn all the right Christian language, know when to stand, know the words to the songs, and still have areas of our lives where God is standing on the outside of the door. Be honest with yourself and the group: Is there a room in your life that you have kept locked from God? What makes it hard to open that door?
2. The sermon drew a distinction between earning God's love and pursuing God's presence. How would you explain that difference in your own words? Why does it matter?
3. Proverbs 3:5-6 calls us to trust God with all of our heart and in all of our ways. Where do you find it easiest to trust God? Where do you find it hardest? What does that reveal about where your heart is actually anchored?

Section 2: Wholehearted Seeking Brings Clarity

4. The sermon said, "Purpose is often discovered while pursuing his presence. You don't have to chase purpose. If you'll chase God, you'll discover your purpose." Do you agree with that? Has there

been a time in your life when pursuing God led you to unexpected clarity about your direction or calling?

5. Pastor Mack described how God often gives enough light for the next step rather than showing the entire path. How do you personally handle uncertainty? Does walking one step at a time feel like faith or frustration to you right now?
6. The sermon challenged us to try a simple five-minute rhythm of Read, Reflect, and Respond. What is the biggest obstacle in your daily life to giving God even five focused minutes? What would it take to remove that obstacle this week?

Section 3: A Whole Heart Creates an Unshakable Anchor

7. The sermon said, "Whatever has your heart eventually has the power to control you." Looking honestly at your time, attention, money, and thoughts, what does that reveal about what currently has your heart?
8. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said that God was able to deliver them, but that even if he did not, they would still not bow. The sermon called this the difference between a divided heart and a whole heart. Have you ever been in a season where you had to say "even if he does not" and still choose to trust God? What did that look like?
9. Pastor Mack described a divided heart this way: "God, I'll follow you if you do this." And a whole heart this way: "God, I'm following you whether this happens or not." Which of those statements more honestly describes where you are right now?

Section 4: Wholehearted Surrender Changes Your Priorities

10. The sermon used the story of Abraham and Isaac to illustrate that God will not allow even a promise he gave us to become greater than the promise giver. Is there something good in your life, something God may have even given you, that has slowly moved into a place in your heart that belongs only to him? How do you know when something has crossed that line?
11. Pastor Mack asked this question directly: "What part of your life are you still holding back?" Take a moment of silence. Then, if you are willing, share your answer with the group.
12. The sermon closed with the reminder that going through the motions is not the same as seeking God. What is the difference between

religious routine and genuine pursuit? What does genuine pursuit actually look like in an ordinary week for you?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose at least one to put into practice before your group meets again.

For individuals:

- Start the five-minute Read, Reflect, and Respond rhythm every morning this week. No phone. No distractions. Just you and God and one passage of scripture.
- Write down honestly what currently has your heart. Time, money, attention, fear, a relationship, a habit. Then bring that list before God and begin the process of surrendering it to him one item at a time.
- Identify one locked room in your life and pray specifically about it this week. Ask God to show you what it would look like to open that door.

For the group:

- Pray for one another by name this week, specifically asking God to give each person the courage to seek him wholeheartedly rather than just seeking the answer they are waiting for.
- Share one area where you need the group to hold you accountable to pursuing God with your whole heart. Check in with each other before the next meeting.
- Revisit the Blueprints series from the beginning if anyone has missed weeks one or two. All messages are available at odysseychurch.tv or on YouTube.

CLOSING PRAYER GUIDE

Close your time together by praying through these themes as a group.

- Surrender: Lord, here is what I have been holding back. I give it to you.
- Priority: God, show me where my heart is misaligned and help me rearrange my life around you.

- Trust: Even if you do not answer the way I am hoping, I choose to trust you.
- Presence: God, I do not just want your plan. I want you.