



SIMPLE PURSUIT





Strawberry Ice Cream Day!



The Shack at TSF

- Pursue simplicity - cut the clutter from your life so you can seek the Lord
- Pursue holiness - set yourself into Christ's character so it soaks into every crack and crevice
- Pursue Jesus - what might it look like?



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- We are built to seek after/pursue something
 - Pursuing and catching anything other than Jesus is like catching bubbles on your hand—every one pops!
- We want to spend our energy and resources pursuing Jesus
- In what ways can you follow someone?
 - At a distance
 - Mimicry
 - Intimately/personally



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- It's the most basic definition of a disciple—someone who follows Jesus
- This has become so difficult because the core message of Christianity has been distorted and we are born self-seekers
- How do I know what I'm pursuing?
 - Who/what/is first, above all else?
- We were made to be filled up with the things of God



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John 6:22-27

22 The next day the crowd that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there, except one, and that Jesus had not entered with His disciples into the boat, but that His disciples had gone away alone. 23 There came other small boats from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks. 24 So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats, and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus. 25 When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?"

26 Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

27 Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."



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- This group witnessed the feeding of 5000—they want MORE!
 - They should want more of what they can't understand, but that is real and filling
- They are looking for Jesus for the wrong reasons



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- V. 25—when He’s just plain old Jesus, do we even see Him?
 - Where are you looking for Jesus...but not really?
 - What if He’s right here?!



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- V. 26—he confronts them because of why they are seeking him
 - This miracle should push them to Christ as their ultimate provider, Savior, Lord
 - Instead, they only see the material—full stomachs!
 - It flies directly in the face of any theology that says that God’s primary focus is for me to have stuff and to be healthy all the time
 - It also means we don’t understand our own most pressing needs



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John 6:28-33

28 Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." 30 So they said to Him, "What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.'" 32 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. 33 For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world."



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- They want to pursue Jesus with works so they can get what they want
- How do we do that?
 - I have to....
- Jesus just looks at us and says, "Follow me. Love me. Work to know me."



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John 6:34-35

34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread."

35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst."



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- Jesus can see into your heart—and He's not running away!
- He's pursuing you!
- And He's the best thing you could ever hope for/imagine!



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Luke 9:57-62

57 As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." 59 And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." 60 But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God." 61 Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home." 62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."



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- A lot of us are quick to say, “I’ll follow you anywhere Lord!”
 - But first...
- Jesus invites us to follow him on one condition—if you’re going to follow Me, nothing else can be first
 - Are you willing to put me before your “other things”?
 - To follow me, you have to be singularly focused on Me



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- We see that pursuing Jesus isn't optional
- Jesus didn't say, "You can be a Christian and not follow me."
- He said, "Live life like I do, by my definition."
- Are you asking the Creator of the universe to be your personal assistant?



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- So, do I just choose to change my loyalties? I just decide to change what I'm pursuing?
 - You must be CHANGED in order to change what you pursue (vv. 35, 36, 40)
 - After that, you naturally pursue the one who is now the new center of your life
- You are naturally pursuing something RIGHT NOW that you think will fill you up
- The object of your affection must change—by believing/trusting in Christ which leads to a life of pursuing Christ



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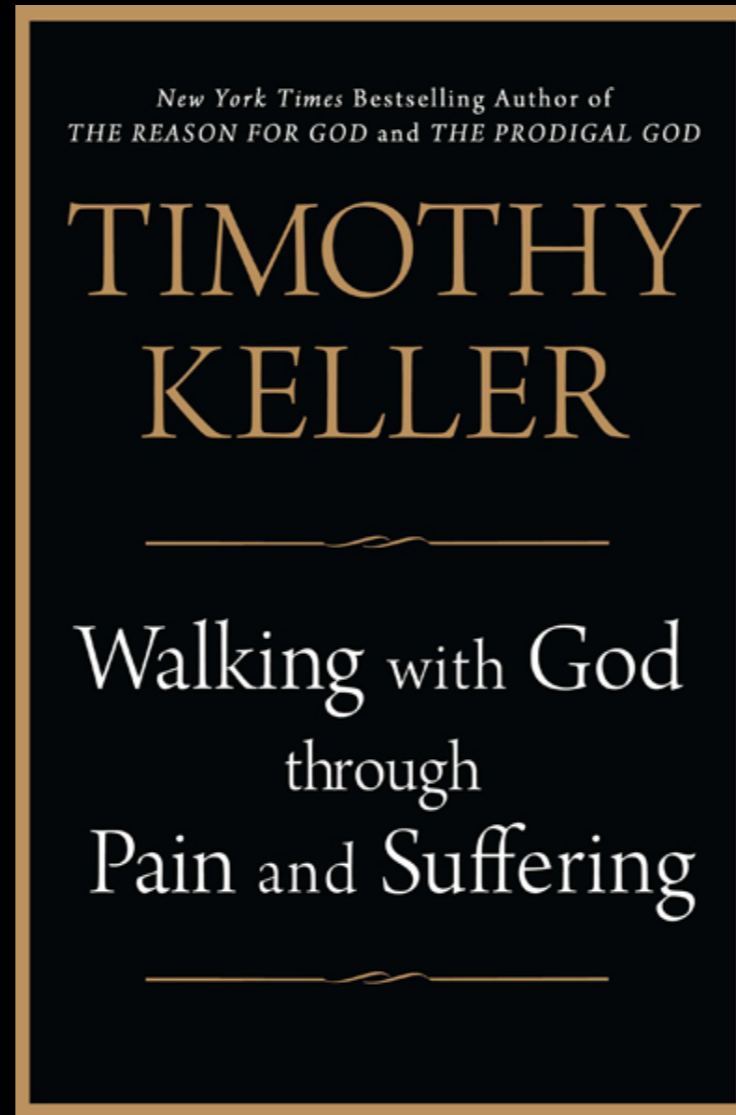


- How do I pursue/get intimate with Jesus?
- It's the same way you get intimate with anyone:
 - Spend intentional time getting to know His thoughts/heart
 - Talk to Him all of the time about everything
 - Trust Him—which means you walk into things that require trust!



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Men's book study

Begins January 17

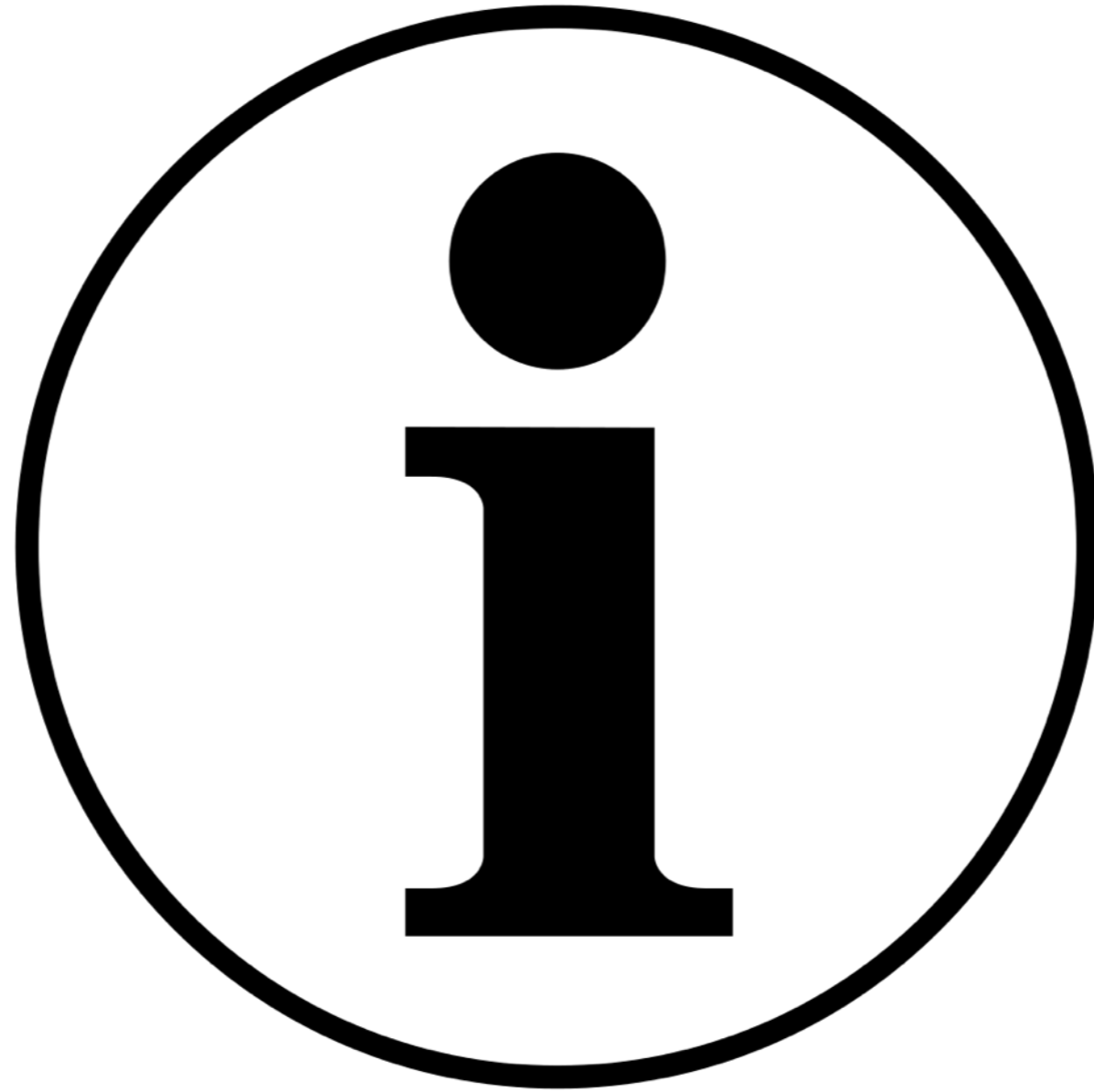
6 AM on Tuesdays at Greatwood Chick-fil-A

Sign up at the table in the foyer



Begins January 23

Sign up at the table in the foyer!



Information Collection Month

Help us update our system by filling
out a card at the back!

Sanctus Student Ministry

HOT HEARTS

January 27–28

Students 6th–12th grade

\$100 per student