



## WELCOME TO PURSUIT

SAMPLE

### WHAT IS PURSUIT?

#### Students don't think they need God!

God has become a “back-pocket” God for many students—like a Get-Out-of-Jail-Free card, they stuff God in their back pocket until they need him. Their faith isn't a relationship; it's a convenience, a routine. Even though he's not their top priority, God is still in pursuit of them. *Pursuit* is a year-long curriculum (52 lessons) based on the [8 Roots of Deep Discipleship](#) (see page 2 for a description of each root) that will help your students move beyond routine into relationship with God. Relationships aren't one-sided, and it's no different in our relationship with God. He promises that if we draw near to him, he will draw near to us (James 4:8). And that's how we grow in spiritual maturity—by pursuing God, trusting his pursuit of us, and knowing him more.

### DESIGNED FOR MULTIPLE ENVIRONMENTS



Whether you meet once or multiple times a week, each flexible lesson can be used as a comprehensive *Large Group Talk* with separate *Small Group Discussion Guide*, an in-depth *Small Group Lesson*, or a stand-alone *Large Group Talk*. We've built in flexibility to meet your changing needs.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

*Pursuit* includes 52 Lessons, divided into smaller, 4-lesson sets (PDF and Word). We've included one lesson in this sample with corresponding Memory Verse and Mark of a Disciple graphics. *Pursuit* was created to fit perfectly into the Deep Discipleship system (including the [8 Roots of Deep Discipleship](#) and *Marks of a Disciple*), designed to help your students grow deep faith. Each one of the 8 Roots is covered in-depth in its own set of lessons.

PURSUIT ALSO INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING (NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SAMPLE):

\*For a full list, see [What's Included](#) on page 8.

- Community Engagement Guides
- Video Training for Adult Leaders
- Parent Guides
- Media and Graphics

#### WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

It's simple. Included in this sample is one lesson (*When the Good Life Hurts*) from the ABUNDANT LIFE set of lessons. Open the folder entitled ABUNDANT LIFE and you'll find a Facilitator Guide and Student Guide.

To learn more about *Pursuit*, check out the SCOPE AND SEQUENCE that give you an entire overview of this resource.

**Have Any Questions?**  
**Give us a call!**



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MAKING DISCIPLES. DEVELOPING LEADERS.

## THE 8 ROOTS OF DEEP DISCIPLESHIP

### RESCUE

The Rescue Root helps students understand their need for a savior:

We are slaves, held captive by terrible enemies: sin and death. In this fallen, corrupt, and shattered world, we need a rescuer—Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer. In fact, he's the only one who can free us. And once we've been freed, we have the opportunity to join in the rescue mission for others.

### APOLOGETICS

The Apologetics Root, which prepares students to explain the hope they have in Christ:

The Bible encourages us to defend our faith: "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect," (1 Pet. 3:15, ESV). That's the point of apologetics—to explain our hope in Christ to others. In the Apologetics Root your students will find ways to do just that.

### COMMUNITY

The Community Root, which helps students understand the meaning of biblical fellowship:

We weren't created to be alone. Our emotional, physical, and spiritual well-beings depend on deep, loving relationships with other people. God has created a family for you. They are his people, and they will help you grow in another essential connection—with God.

### IDENTITY

The Identity Root, which helps students discover their unique identity in Christ:

God created humans in his own image, unique in all creation. Then sin entered the picture, and all people developed a warped version of their original identity. Christ came and died on the cross and rose again to offer us a new identity, even better than the first. He took on our sin and shame so we could take on his righteousness. He identifies with us so we can find our identity in him—a redeemed identity.

### KNOWLEDGE

The Knowledge Root, which helps students understand the basics about God:

God is enormous. He's too big, too awesome, and too complicated to wrap our minds around. Yet he wants us to know him. He wants a relationship with us, so he has revealed himself in a number of ways. We will never know everything about God. But in order to become his disciples, we need to know some essential truths about the One we follow.

### WORSHIP

The Worship Root, which helps students explore what it means to have a lifestyle of worship:

Worship is more than just singing. It is a lifestyle. It's how you go about your day, and it happens when you get a vivid glimpse of God, his power, and his majesty. In the Bible, anyone who has a close encounter with God can't help but marvel at his glory. The angels, his messengers, are in a constant state of worship. We, too, can express a life of worship by encountering God on a daily basis.

### KINGDOM

The Kingdom Root, which helps students understand how to live in the Kingdom of God every day:

When students embrace the Kingdom life, they begin to look at the small things differently. They realize the weight that their decisions carry, and they can start to live by God's value system instead of the world's tainted values.

### OUTREACH

The Outreach Root, which helps students understand their God-given mission:

Jesus gave his followers one last command: to spread the good news of his death and resurrection—the gospel—to the whole world. When we become members of Christ's body of believers, the story doesn't end. That's just the beginning! Now we get to join in a remarkable mission to care for the least, to love other people, and to share Jesus as Lord wherever we go.

### SCOPE

We recommend that you start with the four lessons included in *SEARCH & RESCUE*, then base your sequence on the needs of your group. Below is a description for each set of lessons included in *Pursuit*, as well as a suggested overall sequence.

\*Note that the *SEASONAL* Lesson Set can be used throughout the year during holidays and major milestones in your group.

### SUGGESTED SEQUENCE



#### 1. SEARCH & RESCUE (4 Lessons)

Your students will see that there is no way we could ever rescue ourselves from sin—we need a savior. The Good News is that Christ pursues and rescues, inviting us into relationship with him.

##### Lessons/Passages:

1. Broken (Gen. 1:26–31, 2:15–17, 3:1–7)
2. Once for All (Lev. 16:15–19, 29–30; Heb. 10:1–14)
3. Perfect Peace (Rom. 5:1–11)
4. Faith and Fruit (Eph. 2:1–10)

##### Connected Root:

Rescue



#### 2. AWESTRUCK (4 Lessons)

As God pursues us, we're called to pursue him in worship. It's how we get to know God more and respond to him through every aspect of our lives. Your students will see that worship is more than just singing—it's a lifestyle.

##### Lessons/Passages:

1. Better Together (James 4:1–10)
2. Whispers in the Temple (1 Sam. 3)
3. Honest to God (Ex. 3:1–15, 4:1–17)
4. Giving It All Up (Matt. 4:18–22, 19:16–30)

##### Connected Root:

Worship



## 3. BRANDED (4 Lessons)

Your students will learn that no one knows us better than God, who has a unique design and plan for every single person. When we become a part of God's family, we're challenged to live differently because of the new and redeemed identity we receive in Christ.

### Lessons/Passages:

1. Closer Than You Think (Ps. 139)
2. Life in God's Family (Rom. 8:9–17)
3. The Purpose of Discipline (Heb. 12:3–11)
4. The Impact of Identity (1 Pet. 2:1–12)

### Connected Root:

Identity



## 4. I AM (4 Lessons)

There's a big difference between knowing *about* God and *knowing* God. Your students will learn some essential aspects *about* God and his character so that they can grow deeper in *knowing* him personally.

### Lessons/Passages:

1. All We Know (and All We Don't) (Rom. 11:33–34; 1 John 5:13–20)
2. Three In One (Deut. 6:4; Rom. 8:26–39)
3. The Merciful Judge (Isa. 57:15–21)
4. Our Great God (Ps. 147)

### Connected Root:

Knowledge



## 5. DEFENDING A FRIEND (4 Lessons)

God doesn't need defending, but he's called us to always be prepared to explain to others the hope we have in Christ. Your students will focus on how to answer some common questions about why they believe what they believe.

### Lessons/Passages:

1. Living Differently (John 17:11–21, 1 Pet. 3:15)
2. Who's Good Enough? (Phil. 3:3–21)
3. Does God Really Care? (Ps. 121)
4. Can I Trust the Bible? (2 Tim. 3:14–4:5)

### Connected Root:

Apologetics



## 6. UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM (4 Lessons)

Your students will learn that God's Kingdom is based on his greater wisdom. God does things differently than the world, so we need to follow Jesus' example as we live as citizens in God's Kingdom.

### Lessons/Passages:

1. Worshipful Submission (Ps. 95)
2. Represent (2 Cor. 5:1–21)
3. Kingdom of the Least (John 4:3–30, 39–42)
4. Unusable (Matt. 1:1–16)

### Connected Root:

Kingdom



## 7. ABUNDANT LIFE (4 Lessons)

Jesus promises his followers the spiritual blessings of an abundant life. Your students will see that being in relationship with God and abiding in him is the way to experience the blessings of God's presence, both now on earth and forever in heaven.

### Lessons/Passages:

1. The Good Life (John 10:10; Ps. 16)
2. Life on the Vine (John 15:1–17)
3. When the Good Life Hurts (2 Cor. 4:7–18)
4. Eternal Life (Rev. 21)

### Connected Roots:

Rescue, Worship, Kingdom



## 8. PULL TOGETHER (4 Lessons)

God has put other people in our lives to help point us toward him. Your students will explore what Christian community looks like, see that every believer is valuable, and learn how to live as part of God's family.

### Lessons/Passages:

1. Belonging to the Body (1 Cor. 12:12–27)
2. Meet Together (Acts 2:44–47; Heb. 10:19–25)
3. God's Power Through Us (James 5:13–20)
4. Love Your Neighbor (Lev. 19:9–18)

### Connected Root:

Community





## 9. STORYTELLERS (4 Lessons)

Your students will learn about their role in God's mission to pursue the whole world. We're called to share the good news of God's salvation, fueled by the joy and love produced by our own vibrant pursuit of God.

### Lessons/Passages:

1. Rescue Mission (Matt. 18:10–14; 1 Tim. 2:1–7)
2. Our Hearts' Desire (Rom. 10:1–17)
3. Sharing is Caring (Matt. 28:18–20; Acts 4:1–20)
4. Completed Joy (1 John 1:1–2:6)

### Connected Root:

Outreach



## 10. I DOUBT IT (4 Lessons)

Doubt happens. It's present in every Christ-follower's life. Your students will learn about our proper response to doubt while addressing some hard questions from a biblical perspective.

### Lessons/Passages:

1. He Said, She Said, God Said (Gen. 3:1–7; Jer. 1:1–9; Mark 9:24)
2. Priorities (Luke 10:38–42; Ps. 127:1–2)
3. Experiencing Grace (Rom. 6:1–23)
4. What's It Worth? (Ps. 73:1–3, 12–13; Eph. 1:3–14)

### Connected Roots:

Identity, Worship, Rescue, Kingdom



## 11. MIRACLES (4 Lessons)

God provides for and delivers his people, but it doesn't always happen how we want or expect. Your students will explore God's power to perform miracles and what we can learn from examples of God's intervention in the Bible.

### Lessons/Passages:

1. Trust and Obey (Dan. 3:8–30)
2. A Timeline of Deliverance (Gen. 1:1–5, 1 Kings 17:8–16, Luke 9:10–17; Ex. 14:21–31, Rev. 22:1–9)
3. Sovereignty and Mercy Revealed (John 11:1–44)
4. God's Intervention (Matt. 14:22–33; Ps. 77:10–20)

### Connected Roots:

Rescue, Apologetics, Knowledge, Worship

## SEASONAL/HOLIDAY (8 Lessons)

These seasonal lessons are independent from each other yet tied together by one common thread—God’s pursuit of us through all the seasons of life.

### Lessons/Passages:

1. *New Year/Beginnings*: Waiting for Strength (Isa. 40:28–31)
  - God renews our strength when we’re weary
2. *Easter 1*: Celebrate the King! (Luke 19:28–44)
  - Jesus is a humble and worthy king
3. *Easter 2*: Sacrificial Pursuit (Luke 23:32–49)
  - Jesus pursues the criminal on the cross
4. *Easter 3*: Just As We Are (John 20:11–29)
  - Risen Jesus pursues Thomas in his doubt
5. *Graduation*: The Good Shepherd and Host (Psalm 23)
  - How will you pursue God in new phases of life?
6. *Thanksgiving*: Bless the Lord (Psalm 103)
  - Gratitude is our proper response to God’s pursuit
7. *Christmas 1*: Our Only Hope (Isa. 9:1–7)
  - God’s long-term pursuit of his people (OT prophecy)
8. *Christmas 2*: Above and Beyond (Luke 2:1–20)
  - God pursues in big ways (incarnation) and small (inviting shepherds to Jesus’ birth)

### Connected Roots:

Identity, Kingdom, Rescue, Worship, Knowledge





# WHAT'S INCLUDED

## 52 LESSONS



- **FACILITATOR GUIDE** PDF and Word Versions
- **STUDENT GUIDE** PDF and Word Versions
- **WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT** Easy-to-use teaching points that unpack biblical themes
- **A SECOND LOOK** An additional illustration with discussion questions
- **APPLY IT** A practical application for the week
- **THINK ABOUT IT** Challenging quotes or verses
- **MARKS OF A DISCIPLE** Identify signs of growth in students
- **MEMORY VERSE** Promote Bible memorization
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GUIDE** Two experiential activities to reinforce each series' lessons
- **HOLIDAY LESSONS** Seasonal teaching
- **ONLINE TEACHER MANAGEMENT\*** Give your volunteers online access to digital curriculum

*\* Included with HERO Membership*

## ANNUAL MINISTRY BLUEPRINT



- **GOSPEL THREAD** 8 roots of Deep Discipleship
- **SCOPE AND SEQUENCE** Suggested yearly teaching outline
- **DUAL ENVIRONMENT** Specific instructions for use in small group and large group

## VOLUNTEERS



- **FACILITATOR GUIDE** PDF and Word Versions
- **VOLUNTEER TIPS AND TRAINING** Advice for Lesson Facilitators
- **VOLUNTEER TRAINING VIDEOS\*** 18 Youth Ministry Training Videos for Volunteers
- **STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP TRACKER\*** Equip Volunteers to Create an Individualized Discipleship Plan for Every Student
- **ONLINE TEACHER MANAGEMENT\*** Online Access to Digital Curriculum
- **ONLINE MESSAGE CENTER\*** Update Volunteers via the Message Center

*\* Included with HERO Membership*

## MEDIA



- **POWERPOINT SLIDES** Background, Title, and Teaching Point Slides
- **PROPRESENTER SLIDES** Background, Title, and Teaching Point Slides
- **PROMO ART** Sized for Instagram, Posters, and Web Banners
- **MEMORY VERSE** Graphic of Weekly Verse
- **GOSPEL THREAD VIDEOS\*** Animated Videos of the 8 Roots of Deep Discipleship
- **COUNTDOWN VIDEOS\*** 20 Animated Countdown Videos
- **MOTION LOOPS\*** 22 Animated Motion Loops
- **BUMPER VIDEOS** 44 Animated Bumper Videos

*\* Included with HERO Membership*

## PARENTS



- **PARENT GUIDE** Lesson Overview and Scripture Covered for Every Series
- **QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK** Debrief Questions Designed for Parents
- **FAMILY ACTIVITY** Activity Designed for the Whole Family
- **HOW TO RUN A PARENT MEETING\*** Video Training for Youth Workers
- **ONLINE DISCIPLESHIP TRACKER\*** Partner with Parents to Create an Individualized Discipleship Plan for Every Student

*\* Included with HERO Membership*

## TECHNOLOGY



- **ONLINE TEACHER MANAGEMENT\*** Online Access to Digital Curriculum
- **ONLINE MESSAGE CENTER\*** Update Volunteers via the Message Center

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## DOWNLOAD A SAMPLE

[leadertreks.org/pursuit-sample-lesson](http://leadertreks.org/pursuit-sample-lesson)