

# THE SIX WEEK PURSUIT + HERO'S LEGACY +

## ADULT SMALL-GROUP STUDY

To the Teacher/Independent Studier,

This study is designed to accompany you as you teach the members of our church. This booklet and the accompanying video are only supplements. Feel free to take ownership of the materials and allow the Spirit to lead you as we talk about the heroes of the Bible together.

Included in this packet are pages intended to be handouts to your group/family with fill-in the blank lines that correspond to the video supplements on our Riverside Lighthouse website, and our Riverside Lighthouse YouTube page.

I realize it is much to ask, and that is why your partnership is both deeply appreciated and treasured. May God bless you immensely as we grow in our walk together!

Sincerely,  
Your Pastors

### ***Week 5 – “John: Heart of God”***

#### ***Pre-Lesson Study:***

To the Teacher:

This lesson will be best accomplished by the Teacher first studying **John 17:20-26** and **1 John 4:7-21**. If you would like to add any other verses that would enhance the study or speak to your heart, then please feel free to include them. The video portion of the lesson will cover Acts 9:1-22, but you will be responsible for the additional thoughts of Hebrews 12:7-13. As you study, keep the following in mind:

#### **Themes to Keep in Mind:**

- As you study the Scriptures, remember our true hero, founder, and perfecter of our faith is Jesus Himself. All of those we read about, who are considered heroes of the faith, are in truth simply reflections of the greatest one of all.
- Keep an eye out for how we can practically apply our faith and for what we can learn from the life and writings of John.

Questions to Keep in Mind:

- What is the heart of God? How do John's writings demonstrate his understanding of Jesus' mission and what God desires?
- How do you hear God speak? Are there practices and exercises that help listen? What do the Scriptures say about hearing God's voice?

Once you have read and studied the 2 Scriptures noted above, you are ready to preview the Adult Group lesson for preparation.

**Lesson Opener:** Welcome to the 6-Week Pursuit, Week 5, and today's topic: "Heart of God". We will focus on John today and what we can learn from this founding father of the church.

**Ice Breaker Question:** Now, no harsh judgements or complaints here: but what genre of music just absolutely gets on your nerves? Why?

- Music is a sensitive topic so remember: no answers allowed that say because that genre is stupid, bad taste, or Satanic – don't want to hurt anybody here – just a funny little discord

**Video – Vern Weaver – "Heart of God":** pass out the copies of the handout for this lesson and encourage learners to fill in the blanks in the handout as they watch the video.

Learner Handouts – Teacher's Guide: the corresponding blanks are highlighted

1. John is also known as "the disciple whom Jesus loved".
2. Jesus' prayer during Passover is only recorded by John.
3. Jesus prayed that His followers would all be one, just as Jesus is one with the Father.
4. The heart of God is to know His love, love others, and make Jesus known.
5. John understood the heart of God because he listened.

**Video Follow-Up Questions:** encourage every member of your group to pitch in an answer as you walk through these questions together.

**Question #1:** Have you ever heard God speak? If so, what does His voice sound like? How do you know it was God?

**Question #2:** How can you hear God's voice? Are there practices or tasks you need to do in order to hear God speak?

**Question #3:** Jesus gave His people three commandments: to love God, love people, and make Jesus known. Do you think there is more to following Jesus than these commandments? If so, why?

**Going Deeper:** now read **1 John 4:7-21** together. Use your previous study of the passage to inform this portion of the conversation.

**Final Question:** In light of everything we have talked about, how could you better listen to God this week? Work together with your group to develop an intentional plan so that you are sure to make time for God.

***Prayer Emphasis:*** conclude the lesson with a time of prayer. You can structure this time however you feel lead. Listed below are some topics that could help guide this time of prayer.

- Pray to hear God's voice
- Pray for God to give you His heart and perspective towards people
- Pray for God's love to increase in your life

**Continue to the next page for the lesson handouts, questions, and video follow-ups.**

## LESSON HANDOUTS:

### WEEK 5 STUDY “JOHN: THE HEART OF GOD”

Fill in the blanks as you watch the supplemental video to today’s lesson. If you miss any answers, your group’s teacher can provide them.

1. John is also known as \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus’ prayer during Passover is only \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Jesus prayed that His followers would all be \_\_\_\_\_, just as \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The heart of God is to know \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and make \_\_\_\_\_.
5. John understood the heart of God because \_\_\_\_\_.

### Video Follow-Up Questions

Question #1: Have you ever heard God speak? If so, what does His voice sound like? How do you know it was God?

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Question #2: How can you hear God’s voice? Are there practices or tasks you need to do in order to hear God speak?

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Question #3: Jesus gave His people three commandments: to love God, love people, and make Jesus known. Do you think there is more to following Jesus than these commandments? If so, why?

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**Final Question:** In light of everything we have talked about, how could you better listen to God this week? Work together with your group to develop an intentional plan so that you are sure to make time for God.

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