

# The Chase

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Illustration: My little brother and sister used to play a game when they were about 8 and 10 years old. It was simply called "The Chase!" They were the masterminds behind the creation of "the chase" (or so I always thought). The game had very few rules, some of which were made up as the chase was underway, if the particular rule would in some way favor the person that made it up. "The Chase" involved just two players, my brother and my sister. The chase was always a game played indoors. This way there were multiple pieces of furniture which could be dodged and ducked under which gave the pursuer an even greater challenge. The simple purpose of the game was that one of them would run as fast as they could and the other would give it their best shot to catch them. If caught their roles would switch and "the chase" would continue on in all of its fury. It never failed that chairs would end up knocked over on the floor and the dining room table was never in the same place it started at the end of an exciting chase.

We are in a game of pursuit with our Father God. Much like my brother and sister used to chase each other around the house; God wants us to be in pursuit of His presence.

## Jeremiah 29:13

*'And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.'* -God

Expound: God is not trying to get away from us, but He does desire for us to seek after Him (to chase Him). Being close to God does not happen automatically. It takes effort and time. We must seek Him if we are to find Him. We must pursue Him if we expect to be close to Him. Just like any relationship, the more we put into it, the more we are going to get back.

## James 4:8

*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

- A. The closer we get to God, the closer He will get to us. He does not want to be far from us, but He wants to see that our hearts are in it. God loves us and wants to be close to us, but He will not force Himself on us. Love shown to God by us will be returned by Him, if we are

faithful to pursue Him. If we will chase after Him, then He will in turn run toward us with arms open wide.

- B. Another thing that verse makes clear to us is that we must be cleansed to draw near to God. What does that mean to us?? It means we need to get anything that is not pleasing to God out of our lives. If we really are chasing after God than we have to be willing to lay down anything that would stand between us and Him. Sometimes that means sacrificing something we like. We may have to throw out some of our favorite CDs. (M?) Or maybe some of our DVDs or videos are hindering our walk with God. For some of us, a relationship may be standing in our way of chasing after God.

Can you think of anything that could hinder a person's walk with God???

No matter what it is that stands between us and God, we must be willing to lay it down, if we want to be close to Him. We have to cleanse our hands and purify our hearts. That means not only what we do, but our thoughts, and feelings must be dedicated to God. He wants everything we are.

### **Some Steps to chasing after God:**

Step 1: Repent and Accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.

Expound...

**John 14:6**

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

Step 2: Cleanse Ourselves

(see James 4:8 above)

-Getting rid of things that would distract us from Him.

-Running from sin.

Step 3: Chase after Him (seek Him)

What are some ways we can seek God in our daily lives???

-Bible reading      -worship      -hanging out w/ believers

-prayer      -looking for ways to please Him (serving, witnessing, etc)

-try writing God a love letter!      -write God a poem or a song

-obey when He tells you to do something (He tells you some things to do and not to do in the Bible. He may tell you something directly in your prayer time. At times He will urge you to tell someone about Jesus) If you love Him you'll obey Him.

**John 14:15**

*"If you love me, you will obey what I command." -Jesus*

Response:

How many of you want to chase after God in your daily lives?? Now let's take a minute and commit ourselves to really pursue after God.

Prayer: God, I want to be close to You. I believe if I chase after You that You will in turn come close to me. Help me Lord to cleanse myself of things that would keep me from You. Let my heart desire You above all else. Help me Lord to be faithful in seeking You every day. Help me to pray, to read the Bible, and to be involved in worship. Help me to hang out with Christians to help build my faith. I will do my best to find creative ways to express my love to You and to chase after You. In Jesus name, Amen.

Activity option:

Take time at the end of service to write God a love letter. Seal it in an envelope, and date it. Open it at a later time (maybe during personal prayer time) and read it aloud to God.

