

Discussion Guide

April 19, 2026

He Went Out of His Way for Me On Purpose Week 2

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Main Idea

Jesus does not save in generalities. He moves with intention toward individuals, meeting people in their hidden places, pursuing them when they wander, and restoring them after failure. This message reminds us that the cross was not a distant act but a personal pursuit rooted in love and purpose. In a season where many feel overlooked or uncertain, the truth of Christ's intentional pursuit forms identity and anchors faith. As one season closes and another begins, believers are invited to see their story through the lens of redemption, not rejection. Spiritual formation deepens when we understand that we are personally known, pursued, and restored by Christ.

Series Anchor Verse

We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. (Romans 6:6 NLT)

Anchor Passage

John 4:7-18 (NLT)

1. I May Feel Hidden, But I'm Never Forgotten By Him

Jesus intentionally engaged the Samaritan woman, crossing social, cultural, and moral barriers to meet her where she was. This reveals a Savior who is not distant but deeply personal, willing to step into brokenness without hesitation. Many assume that God keeps His distance until we improve ourselves, yet Christ demonstrates the opposite by initiating relationship in the middle of her pain. Her hidden life did not disqualify her from being seen, it positioned her to encounter grace. In Christ, being fully known does not lead to rejection but to restoration. This truth confronts the lie that we must hide our past in order to be accepted by God.

Scripture: John 4:7–18, Psalm 139:1–4

Discussion: Consider where you may feel overlooked or unseen and how that perception has shaped your relationship with God. Reflect on how the Samaritan woman's encounter challenges the belief

that God only draws near to those who have everything together. Think about what it means to be fully known by Christ and how that truth reshapes your view of your past and your present.

2. He Went After The One Like It Was The Only One

The parable of the lost sheep reveals a pursuit that defies human logic but reflects divine love. Jesus presents a shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine to find the one, showing that individual souls matter deeply to God. This pursuit is not passive but active, marked by intention and sacrifice. Many treat grace as common because they forget the distance Christ traveled to redeem them. The reality is that salvation required pursuit, not convenience, and that pursuit was driven by love. When understood rightly, this truth calls for both humility and gratitude in response to God's initiative.

Scripture: Luke 15:4–6, Romans 5:8

Discussion: Reflect on how you have personally experienced God's pursuit and whether you recognize the cost behind it. Consider areas where you may have grown casual about grace and how that has affected your spiritual posture. Think about how understanding yourself as the one Christ pursued should shape the way you live and respond to Him daily.

3. Brokenness Is Not The End, It's The Birthplace Of Purpose

Peter's story reveals that failure is not the end of the believer's journey but often the beginning of deeper purpose. After denying Jesus, Peter experienced both conviction and restoration, showing that Christ addresses failure without abandoning the person. Jesus did not ignore Peter's past, but He reframed it through restoration and recommissioning. Many assume that failure disqualifies them, yet Christ uses it as a foundation for growth and calling. Restoration is not simply forgiveness but a reestablishment of identity and mission. In Christ, what was broken becomes a platform for purpose.

Scripture: Luke 22:61–62, John 21:15–17, Mark 16:7

Discussion: Think about a moment of failure that still shapes how you see yourself and your calling. Reflect on how Peter's restoration challenges the belief that your past disqualifies you from future impact. Consider what it would look like to fully accept Christ's restoration and step forward in obedience rather than remaining in regret.

Scripture Of Confidence

"being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6 NIV)

SUMMARY

Jesus meets people personally, pursues them intentionally, and restores them completely. His work is not limited by our past or our failures, but is rooted in His faithfulness. Understanding this truth calls believers to surrender the weight of shame and embrace the identity Christ provides. Spiritual growth deepens when we trust that God's pursuit and restoration are ongoing. Faith is strengthened as we walk in the confidence that He will finish what He has started.

CALL TO ACTION

- Identify one area where you have felt unseen and bring it honestly before God in prayer this week
 - Reflect on the cost of Christ's pursuit and respond with gratitude through intentional obedience
 - Take one step forward in your calling by trusting that your past does not disqualify your future
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GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Personal Testimony Circle: Invite each person to briefly share a moment when they experienced God's pursuit, whether through a circumstance, a person, or a realization. Allow space for two to three minutes per person. Close by highlighting how each story reflects the same truth that God moves toward individuals with purpose and care.