

**Memory Verses: Jeremiah 29:13**

You will seek me and find me  
when you seek me with all your heart.

What is the greatest pursuit of a life well lived?

I decided to Google this question and this is what I got:

- A great career that gives back to our communities.
- To live a life with the pursuit of excellence in everything we do.
- Making good choices and good habits
- Reinforcing the value of life itself and living happily.
- Always looking for the next great vacation.
- Meeting and making new friends.

The other links that came up in relationship to the pursuit of a life well lived to consider where “wealth, wisdom, happiness, and dreams.” The good news if the fifth one was “truth”.

Now consider this question in relationship to Jeremiah 9:23-24.

**Jeremiah 9:23-24**

<sup>23</sup> This is what the LORD says:

"Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom  
or the strong man boast of his strength  
or the rich man boast of his riches,

<sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts boast about this:

that he understands and knows me,  
that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness,  
justice and righteousness on earth,  
for in these I delight,"  
declares the LORD.

➤ **So what is the greatest pursuit of a life well lived?**

As humans our pride filled, arrogant and desiring hearts lead us to pursue lots of things, status, even relationships. But the only pursuit that is worth more than everything combined is the pursuit of a love relationship with Jesus. The word of God says that we who boast, should boast that we know God! Not only know him but know him in a way that we understand the depth of His loving kindness in His justice and His Holiness toward me.

➤ **How would you describe your pursuit of knowing God?**

Ask each person to describe their pursuit of a love relationship with God. Look for comments that would lead your group to agree that pursuing God is the greatest pursuit in life and it is one pursuit that we all must take very seriously and begin to evaluate how hard we follow after him.

I am beginning a study, Crazy Love, this summer on June 13<sup>th</sup> and this study is all about knowing, loving and pursuing a love relationship with God. Encourage people in your group to join the class on Sunday mornings over the summer.

If your group would like to do this study together consider purchasing the books and one copy of the Crazy Love DVD and you are ready to go by just taking one chapter a week. (You may need extra time on chapter 4, I did)

- **How would you like your pursuit of knowing God to change?**  
Let people share how they would like to see this relationship change.

**Read: Jeremiah 29:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me,  
and I will listen to you.

<sup>13</sup> **You will seek me and find me  
when you seek me with all your heart.**

<sup>14</sup> "I will be found by you," declares the LORD,  
and will bring you back from captivity.  
I will gather you from all the nations  
and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD,  
and will bring you back to the place from which I carried  
you into exile."

- **What do you discover in Jeremiah 29:13 about knowing God?**

God is inviting us to seek Him. And it comes with a promise, that if we seek him we will find him. But seeking God must be from the depths of our heart, in other words it must be a real pursuit. God doesn't play games and although we may be able to fake our relationship with others we can't get by with that in our relationship with God. God loves us and He is always pursuing a love relationship with us. But God is a gentleman, and He lets us choose to seek Him. Yes He invites us into a deeper love relationship, and He is doing that right now, but He lets us choose to respond.

Read Matthew 6:19-21 and Matthew 6:33. What is Jesus trying to tell us?

- **What does God's word show you about getting to know and experience God in a deeper more personal way?**

Jeremiah and Jesus both teach me the same thing, to seek God. To call out to Him in prayer seeking him with all my heart. And when I do that, I have the promise that I will find Him. I will experience His real and personal presence and come to understand and know Him and His love.

### *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

- <sup>31</sup> "The time is coming," declares the LORD,  
"when I will make a new covenant  
with the house of Israel  
and with the house of Judah.
- <sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant  
I made with their forefathers  
when I took them by the hand  
to lead them out of Egypt,  
because they broke my covenant,  
though I was a husband to them,"  
declares the LORD.
- <sup>33</sup> "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel  
after that time," declares the LORD.  
"I will put my law in their minds  
and write it on their hearts.  
I will be their God,  
and they will be my people.
- <sup>34</sup> No longer will a man teach his neighbor,  
or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,'  
because they will all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest,"  
declares the LORD.  
"For I will forgive their wickedness  
and will remember their sins no more."

### **Daily Scripture Reading:**

- Day #1: Jeremiah 29:1-14
- Day #2: Jeremiah 31:1-5
- Day #3: Jeremiah 31:6-14
- Day #4: Jeremiah 31:15-30
- Day #5: Jeremiah 31:31-40