

# AFTER CHURCH DEVO

BY REBUILD

## Topic: The God Who Seeks Us First

### Opening Prayer:

Psalm 34:8-10

O Lord, we come before You with hearts longing to taste and see Your goodness. As we reflect on Your Word, open our hearts to understand the depth of Your invitation to pursue You. Satisfy our souls with Your presence, for those who seek You lack no good thing. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

### Read: Genesis 3:8-10; Jeremiah 29:12-14

The story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden is often framed as one of humanity's first failure. But within this narrative, there is a profound truth about God's relentless pursuit of His people. After Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they hid themselves among the trees of the garden. Yet, it was God who came searching, calling out, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9). This question wasn't for God's benefit—He knew exactly where they were. It was an invitation for Adam and Eve to step out of hiding and return to Him.

In the Hebrew text, the word for "call" (קָרָא, qara) used here signifies an intimate summoning. It paints a picture of a God who does not abandon but instead seeks to restore broken fellowship. From the beginning, God has been the initiator of reconciliation. His call echoes throughout Scripture: from His covenant with Abraham, to His provision for Israel, and ultimately in sending Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Jeremiah 29:13-14 captures this beautifully: "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord." This promise reveals that the pursuit of God is not one-sided. God invites us to pursue Him, but only because He has already sought us out and made Himself known.

Practically, this means we can confidently come to God even in our moments of failure, shame, or fear. Like Adam and Eve, we may feel the impulse to hide, but God's call is persistent, urging us to step forward. He has cleared the way for us through Christ, who bore our sins and made access to the Father possible.

The pursuit of God, then, is not an arduous climb but a response to His gracious invitation. As we engage in prayer, worship, and His Word, we are simply answering His ongoing call: "Where are you?"

### **Conclusion:**

God is the one who first pursues us, making a way for us to seek Him. He calls us out of hiding, out of shame, and into His marvelous light. Let us respond to His call with hearts fully devoted to Him.

### **Discussion Questions:**

#### **For Students:**

1. How does knowing God pursues you change the way you view your relationship with Him?
2. What are some ways you can "step out of hiding" when you feel distant from God?
3. How does Jesus' life and sacrifice reveal God's pursuit of us?

#### **For Parents:**

1. How can you model the pursuit of God to your children in daily life?
2. Have you ever experienced God seeking you in a time of failure? How did you respond?
3. How can family devotionals foster an atmosphere of seeking God together?

#### **For Professionals:**

1. How can you cultivate a heart that seeks God amidst the busyness of work?
2. What barriers might keep you from responding to God's call, and how can they be overcome?
3. How does understanding God's pursuit encourage you to share His love with colleagues?

**This week, take time to reflect on a specific area of your life where you might be “hiding” from God. Write a prayer of surrender, trusting that He has already sought you out and longs to restore that part of your life.**