

# T H E G O D W H O S E E K S

## God Seeks the Proudful

*Group Discussion Guide  
Week of January 28, 2024*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **CITIZENS BASICS**

*Sunday, February 11 | 11am-11:45am  
Dowd YMCA*

We offer Citizens Basics a few times a year for anyone who is new to our church. It is the first step into the life of our community.

Led by various pastors and staff, this class consists of 30 minutes of teaching and 15 minutes of Q&A, with the goal of giving an overview of our vision as a church and how you can be a part of that vision.

Lunch and childcare is provided, but please register in advance.

#### **SUPER BOWL BREWERY HANGOUT**

*Sunday, February 11 | 6:30pm  
Vaulted Oak Brewing*

Join us for our 3rd Annual Super Bowl Brewery Hangout at Vaulted Oak Brewing. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks are available for purchase. You can bring your own food, order pizza from across the street, or enjoy the food truck. Bring a friend and come join us for the big game!

#### **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES**

*Wednesday, February 14 | 7am + 7pm  
Dowd YMCA (Calhoun Room)*

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the church season of Lent - a season set aside by the global church reflect upon our brokenness, contemplate our great need for forgiveness and remember the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion. This year, we will have two identical services in the Calhoun Room at the Dowd YMCA at 7am and 7pm. We encourage you to pick one of the two services to attend. Each service will start on time and last for 45 minutes. Please note - childcare will not be provided but children are welcome in the services with us.

## STUDY THE SCRIPTURE

Read Judges 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:11-12

**Samson was a miraculous baby set apart from birth to lead God's people and live for Him. How is this true for all of us who follow Jesus? How does Peter say we are meant to live set apart lives from the rest of the world, now that we have been 'born again' in Christ?**

Read Judges 14:1-3.

**The common refrain in Samson's life is doing what is "right in his eyes" vs. what is right in the eyes of God. How is "right in our eyes" a good description of pride? How are you tempted to seek what is "right in your own eyes? vs. what is right in God's eyes?**

Read Judges 16.

**Eventually Samson's pride catches up to him. After a long period of continual prideful rebellion, God brings Samson to his lowest point -- eyes gouged out, head shaved (against his Nazarite vow), in prison under his enemy the Philistines. This is often how God seeks us out in our pride -- by leading us to humility through suffering.**

**Has there been a time in your life where God sought you and used hardship or suffering to break you of pride and draw you back to Himself? What did that look like?**

## DISCUSS THE SERMON

*In the sermon, we saw how Samson, even in his broken story, points us forward to Jesus. Samson died pleading for vengeance against his enemies. Jesus died pleading for forgiveness of His enemies. Samson dies to kill his enemies. Jesus dies to save His enemies. Samson was crushed because of his pride. Jesus was crushed so that you could surrender your pride to Jesus.*

**How is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus show you that God seeks the prideful? How do you need to be encouraged by the gospel this week as you think about your own pride?**

## PRACTICE

*One way to grow in humility is through intentional spiritual practices that humble us by helping us see our neediness and frailty. This week, the practice we are encouraged to step into is fasting.*

**How could you step into fasting this week, as a means of letting God seek you, humble you, and draw you to Himself?**

*(If you need help with this practice, check out the resources available on <https://rhythmsandformation.com/>)*