

PURSUIT

Families Seeking Jesus in Holy Week



Stop #1 - In the beginning...

Weather permitting, work through this card as a family out in God's creation. If it is too cold or wet, take this card back to your car and experience it together as a family. You can keep the devotional guide.

Pursuit Preview -

Say: Every story has a beginning. It is in the beginning of the story that we learn so much - the who, the what, the when, the where, and the how. As you read the scriptures below, listen closely for the answers to who, what, when, where, and how.

Pursue the Word - As a family, open your Bible to the following verses. Take turns reading the verses out loud.

- Genesis 1:1
- Psalm 90:2
- Colossians 1:17

Pursue Truth - Answers to our questions must be based on God's Word, not on our guesses, feelings, or ideas. So, thinking back on the scriptures you just read, how would you answer the following questions:

Ask and allow each family member to answer: - Who created everything?

- What was created?
- When and where did creation happen?
- How was everything created?

Pursuit Point -

Say: Everything we see and even what we don't see was created by God. As a family, look around you and take turns naming part of creation that you see with your eyes, then you can even make it harder and name things you know God created that you don't see with your eyes. Take an empty baggie out of the pursuit box and take a leaf, blade of grass, or another piece of creation with you by placing it in the baggie. *(You can even discuss further the uniqueness of this piece of creation.)* Pause and pray, thanking God for His good creation and all He created.

This story started out pretty great, right? God created everything and He thought it was good (Genesis 1:31). That is great news, but the sad news is the story doesn't stay good. Your next stop will share how we go from creation to the fall.

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Pursuit Point -

Please take the PURSUIT sheet with you and return the box to where it was hidden. When leaving this stop, use the Band app, to click on the link to "This is My Father's World." Silently listen to the words of this song as you drive off.



Post a Pic-

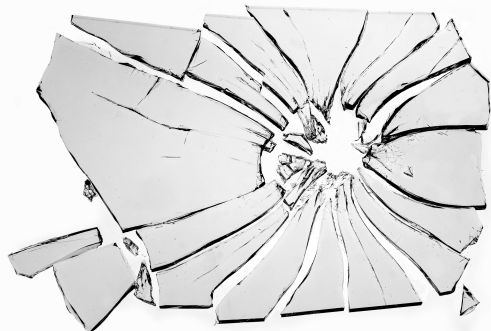
Post a picture of your family participating in PURSUIT to the Band app.

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Stop #2 - Broken

Weather permitting, work through this card as a family out in God's creation. If it is too cold or wet, take this card back to your car and experience it together as a family. You can keep the devotional guide.

Pursuit Preview -

Say: At the end of the last stop, "in the beginning...", all was good, but our story has taken a dark turn. Much like when Jesus was crucified, people weren't sure if there was much hope. Like all good stories, there is the bad with the good and we will discover at this stop what went wrong.

Pursue the Word - As a family, open your Bible to the following verses. Take turns reading the verses out loud.

Romans 3:19, Romans 3:20, Romans 3:23

Pursue Truth - Answers to our questions must be based on God's Word, not on our guesses, feelings, or ideas. So, thinking back on the scriptures you just read, what happened to our good story? *(Discuss as a family.)*

Say: That's right, sin entered the world through the disobedience of Adam and Eve in the garden.

Ask: What do these verses say about sin? Who is a sinner? *(Discuss as a family.)*

Instruct a family member to take one mirror out of the pursuit box (one per family, please). Take turns looking at yourself in the mirror.

Say: While we may do good things and even be described as "good" people, we are all sinners. That's right, all of us.

Take out a Sharpie from the Pursuit box and write the word "sinner" on your family's mirror. Now pass the mirror around, taking turns looking at yourself through sin.

Pursuit Point -

Say: Satan entered the garden and tempted Adam and Eve, but it was by their choice sin entered creation. They decided to do things their way instead of God's way. Sin is powerful and it changed God's perfect creation. We all are born sinners, and nothing we do in our own strength can make us right with God. Our sin separates us from God.

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Ask and allow each family member to answer: How do you feel about what happened in the garden?

- Do you see yourself as a sinner? Why or why not?
- What do you think about your sin separating you from God?

Say: Our story took a bad turn, but we had to see our brokenness in sin to see our need for a Savior. Hope is coming in our next stop. Before you leave this stop, take a moment to look out over this beautiful view. How can we pray for our city and the people in it to see their need for a Savior?

Pause as a family and pray for our city. Ask God to help you see each person's need for a Savior.

Please put the Sharpie and the Bible back in the PURSUIT box. Take the PURSUIT sheet with you and return the box to where it was hidden. *(Your family can keep its mirror.)* When leaving this stop, use the Band app, to click on the link to "Not What My Hands." Silently listen to the words of this song.



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Stop #3 - Rescued

Weather permitting, work through this card as a family out in God's creation. If it is too cold or wet, take this card back to your car and experience it together as a family. You can keep the devotional guide.

Pursuit Preview -

Say: How do we fix our separation from God that is caused by our sin?

You may be thinking, is there any hope? The good news is there is hope and His name is Jesus Christ.

See, just as a good parent or teacher punishes someone for their wrong doing, God must punish our sin. He is Holy and perfect, so He cannot ignore it.

Pursue the Word - As a family open your Bible to the following verses. Take turns reading the verses out loud.

- 1 Peter 3:18
- Galatians 1:4

Pursue Truth - Answers to our questions must be based on God's Word, not on our guesses, feelings, or ideas.

Ask: Thinking back on the scriptures you just read, who is the hero of our story? *(Discuss as a family.)*

Pursuit Point -

Say: God set a rescue plan in motion and we pause this Holy Week to focus on the greatest and truest story ever told. Because sin had to be punished with death, someone had to die. *(For preschool families you might want to say - Because sin had to be punished, someone had to take that punishment.)* Jesus willingly faced death because of His great love for us. *(For preschool families you might want to say - Jesus loves us so much.)* Jesus, even though He was completely perfect, was punished for all the things we do wrong. His death satisfied the punishment that had to be paid for our sins. *(For preschool families you might want to say - All that Jesus did remind us of His great love for you and me.)*

Take out a "Jesus Saves" life preserver - one per family. One family member at a time hold the life preserver and share with the others what this rescue of Jesus means to you personally, then pass the life preserver to the next family member allowing them to share.

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Say: Romans 5:8 tells us "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." But here is even greater news: not only did our hero, Jesus, die for our sins, He defeated death and rose again on the third day. Pass the life preserver around again and talk as a family about what goes through your mind when you really think about Jesus coming back to life.

Please take the PURSUIT sheet with you and return the box to where it was hidden. (*Your family can keep its life preserver.*) When leaving this stop, use the Band app to click on the link to "O Great God". Silently listen to the words of this song as you drive off.



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Stop #4 - Restore

Weather permitting, work through this card as a family out in God's creation. If it is too cold or wet, take this card back to your car and experience it together as a family. You can keep the devotional guide.

Pursuit Preview - Jesus came to rescue us from our sin problem. This is great news!!! Not only did Jesus die for our sins, He beat death - He rose again! That is why we celebrate Easter! But amazingly, that isn't the end of the story. One day

God is going to make all things new and right again. He will restore creation to be as it should have been all along.

Pursue the Word - As a family, open your Bible to the following verses. Choose an adult to read this passage while everyone else closes their eyes and listens carefully. Instruct family members to listen carefully to something that excites them about the new Heaven and the new Earth.

-Revelation 21:1-5

As a family, discuss: What part of Revelation 21:1-5 excites you most and why? (Allow each family member a chance to share and be sure to take time and discuss the wonderful truths.)

Say: This amazing story all comes together here. God was there in the beginning, He is here now, and He will be here forever. He is the story's hero. He has settled the conflict of sin with a beautiful forever. What does that mean to you? *(Allow family members a chance to respond.)*

Pursuit Point -

Ask - What is something broken in your life, that you wish you could get a brand new version of? *(Allow family members to share.)*

Open God's Word and read Revelation 21:5 again.

Say: It might be nice to have a new car, a new tablet, a new toy, or even a new house, but not one of those things lasts forever. How much better is it that God is powerful enough to make all things new? *(Discuss as a family.)*

Say: At the beginning of our story, God was Creator and we could have a perfect relationship with Him. Then, sin came in and separated us from God. We needed to be rescued. Jesus came and paid the price for our sins and made a relationship with God possible again if we receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. By faith in Him, we are reunited with God and are a part of His plan for eternity - forever. If we have received Jesus as Savior, we will even get to see Jesus face to face one day.

Ask: Have you ever sat and thought about forever? (As a family sit quietly and close your eyes and try to think about forever. Share what you thought about with one another.)

Say: Eternity is forever. It has no end. This is what makes this story so amazing. The ending lasts forever.

Instruct the youngest family member to take a gold charm out of the Pursuit box. Explain that this is the symbol for eternity. The charm has no beginning and no end.

Ask: What do you think about when you look at this charm? What do you think about when you hear that God's plan for us to be with Him forever will be permanently fulfilled?

Take this charm and hang it on your car's rear view mirror as a reminder that one day we will be able to worship and obey God forever.

Please take the PURSUIT sheet with you and return the box to where it was hidden. *(Your family can keep the infinity charm.)* When leaving this stop, use the Band app to click on the link to "I Can Only Imagine." Silently listen to the words of this song as you drive off. Discuss this as a family. Also be sure to click the link to watch an important video that will put all the pieces of the Pursuit together.



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