



## SEEK

**PASTOR BRIAN COLES**

**JANUARY 4, 2026**

### WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **I Know That I Know** (*The Belonging Co.*)
- **Firm Foundation (He Won't)** (*Cody Carnes*)
- **Agnus Dei** (*Jesus Culture*)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- I Chronicles 16:11
- Psalm 63:1
- Matthew 6:31-34; 7:7-8
- Deuteronomy 4:25-31

### OPENING PRAYER

Begin your time together by inviting God's presence and asking Him to help you treasure and ponder what He wants to reveal to your group tonight.

### Ice Breaker (5-10 min)

What is one New Year's resolution or goal you've set for 2026? What habit or discipline do you hope to develop this year?

## KEY TAKEAWAYS (5 mins)

1. Stewarding God's Presence - We must learn to seek God on His terms, not ours
2. Seeking with Confidence - God invites us to ask, seek, and knock with assurance
3. Relying on God's Mercy - No matter how far we've strayed, God is available and merciful

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-40 min)

### Part 1: Stewarding God's Presence

Read 1 Chronicles 16:11

1. What does it mean to "steward the presence of God" in your daily life?
2. Pastor Brian mentioned that David consulted with every leader but not the Lord when moving the ark. When have you made decisions based on human wisdom rather than seeking God first? What was the outcome?
3. How do moral failures and human expectations get in the way of experiencing God's presence? Can you share an example from your own life?
4. What does it look like practically to seek God "on His terms" rather than our own? How can we discern the difference?

### Part 2: Seeking with Confidence

Read Matthew 7:7-8 and Psalm 34:4, 6a, 15

5. On a scale of 1-10, how confident are you when you approach God in prayer? What factors increase or decrease your confidence?
6. These verses promise that everyone who seeks will find. Have you experienced a time when you sought God and clearly found Him? Share that story.
7. Read Matthew 6:31-34. How does seeking God's kingdom first change our perspective on daily worries and needs?
8. What specific area of your life do you need to seek God with greater confidence this year?

### **Part 3: Relying on God's Mercy**

Read Deuteronomy 4:25-31

9. This passage describes a cycle of disobedience, consequences, and restoration. Why is it significant that God promises to be found even after His people have turned away?
10. Verse 31 says, "For the Lord your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you." How does this truth impact the way you approach God when you've failed?
11. Is there an area of your life where you feel distant from God right now? What would it look like to seek Him with "all your heart and soul" in that area?
12. How can we help each other in this group seek God more intentionally this year?

### **PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)**

Choose one or two of these to commit to this week:

- Set aside 20-40 minutes each morning to spend time with the Lord (prayer, Bible reading, worship)
- Identify one "human expectation" you've placed on God and surrender it to Him in prayer
- Memorize 1 Chronicles 16:11 and recite it daily as a reminder to seek God's face
- Journal about an area where you need to seek God with greater confidence
- Confess and return to God in an area where you've been distant or disobedient

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Pray together, inviting each person to:

- Thank God for bringing you into 2026 and for His faithfulness
- Ask God to teach you how to steward His presence on His terms
- Pray for confidence in seeking Him throughout the year
- Thank Him for His mercy and availability, no matter where you are spiritually
- Commit to supporting one another in seeking God wholeheartedly