



SG | Small Groups

The 'e' stands for relentless pursuit.

People are languishing today.

When he saw the crowds, he had **compassion** for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. *Matthew 9:36*

It breaks God's heart to see people languishing.

"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a **rich and satisfying life**." *John 10:10*

In him was **life**, and that life was the light of all mankind. *John 1:4*
Jesus relentlessly pursued languishing people.

All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the **guest** of a **sinner**." *Luke 19:7*

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the **lost**." *Luke 19:10*

But the Pharisees and their teachers of religious law **complained bitterly** to Jesus' disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with such **scum**?"... "**Healthy people** don't need a doctor—**sick people** do. I have come to call not those who think they are **righteous**, but those who know they are **sinners** and need to repent." *Luke 5:30-32*

Love does **no harm** to a neighbor. *Romans 13:10*

Jesus invites you to take up the cause.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am **sending** you." *John 20:21*

Bring abundant life to languishing people.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching** them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." *Matthew 28:18-20*

1. Who is **languishing** in your life?

2. Are you **relentlessly pursuing** them?

Group Prep

In preparation for your small group meeting, please read Luke 5:1-32, then answer the following discussion questions prior to attending.

Introduction

There are many people in our world who are depressed, bitter, angry, fearful, hopeless and living without purpose. It breaks God's heart to see people in this state. So much so that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to help them get the most out of this life. There is 'abundant life' available for each of them, and God's will is to partner with us to help them obtain it.

Discussion Questions

1. As a group, take a moment to explain the idea of 'languishing.' In what ways have you seen people around you languishing?

Read John 10:10 and John 1:4. People often reduce the Gospel to, "Jesus came so you can go to heaven when you die," but it's so much more. How can the effects of the Gospel rescue people from a life of languishing? How have you personally experienced these effects?

2. Luke 5 describes four interactions in which Jesus relentlessly pursues languishing people. Who was Jesus interacting with and what was going on in each instance? How was each of the people Jesus interacted with languishing? What did Jesus do for each person to remedy their languishing, and going forward, what did He ask each one to do?

Jesus came to give his followers abundant life. Where are you not experiencing life the way He intended? What can you do about it?

3. God has an agenda of bringing abundant and eternal life to a languishing world, and His desire is to partner with us in this relentless pursuit. Read John 20:21, Matthew 5:14-16, and Matthew 18:16-20. How engaged are you in God's agenda? What are the obstacles that prevent you from relentlessly pursuing those who are languishing, and how can you overcome those obstacles?

4. Has God placed someone in your life who is languishing? If so, who? What are some practical steps you can take this coming week to relentlessly pursue them?

Outreach: Groups in Action

Mark your calendars for Emmanuel's **Pack the House** service project being held November 19 from 4:00-5:30pm (or until they are all packed). Come help pack the boxes that will go to Shepherd Community to distribute to families in need over the holiday break. Any questions email Kerry Carmichael at kcarmichael@eclife.org.

We are collecting hygiene items that will be used for the upcoming tote packing service project held November 19 called **Pack the House**. Please pick up some \$1 items from Dollar Tree (i.e. toothpaste, toothbrushes, small bottles of shampoo, and bars of soap), then drop them off at the Information Desk between now and November 16. The boxes we pack will include non-perishable food and hygiene items that will then be delivered to inner city families over the holiday break.

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____
_____.

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I'm praying for:
