

REVIEW: WHO WE ARE

- Vision – We will reach the world for Jesus one person at a time
- Mission – We will make biblical disciples in relational environments
- Process – We will make disciples who make disciples of Jesus – The S,C,M,D Process
 - Share – Connect – Minister - Disciple
- 7 Essentials – Abide in Christ; Reach the Lost; Connect the Unconnected; **Chase the Strays**; Shepherd to Maturity; Identify, Equip and Release Leaders; and Function as a Team

WE WILL CHASE THE STRAYS**1. WE STRAY**

Genesis 3:1-9 (NIV) - Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” 2The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” 4“‘You will not certainly die,’” the serpent said to the woman. 5“‘For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’”6When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

Zechariah 10:2 (NIV) - The idols speak deceitfully, diviners see visions that lie; they tell dreams that are false, they give comfort in vain. Therefore the people wander like sheep oppressed for lack of a shepherd.

WHY DO WE STRAY?

- Failure, Fear, Hurt, Fatigue, Conflict, Confusion, Pride, Envy, Revenge, Wandering eyes and hearts

2. GOD CHASES

Psalms 100:3 (NIV) - Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Ezekiel 34:1-6; 11-12 (NIV) - 1The word of the Lord came to me: 2“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? 3You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. 4You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. **You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost.** You have ruled them harshly and brutally. 5**So they were scattered because there was no shepherd,** and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals. 6My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them... 11“**For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. 12As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.**

John 10:14 (NIV) - 14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—15just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

HOW DOES HE CHASE?

- Gracious in the Garden, Committed by a Covenant, Long-suffering in the Desert, and Sacrificial like a Shepherd
- He goes to us, then through us

3. WE CHASE

Luke 15:4 (NIV) - "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? 5And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' 7I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Hebrews 3:12-14 (NIV) - 12See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. 14We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end.

2 Corinthians 5:14-20 (NIV) - 14For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 16So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

HOW DO WE CHASE?

- Gracious like in the Garden, Committed like a Covenant, Long-suffering in their Deserts, and Sacrificial like our Shepherd

WHY DON'T WE CHASE?

- Not my part, They'll get mad, They deserve it, I tried already

WHAT DO WE EXPECT?

- Overboard Toddlers
- The aroma of Death

WE WILL CHASE THE STRAYS

- People who chase, become a people who chase – in every sphere
- Weekends and Weekdays, Worship and Relationship

QUESTIONS:

- What is it personally that leads you astray from God?
- How has God chased you in your life?
- Reconciled people become reconcilers. Those who have been chased by God, chase for God. How is this true or untrue in your life? Do you need to be reconciled to God? Share this with someone.
- God invites us to chase and has shown us how. In what ways do you chase well and in what ways do you struggle?

- What are some next steps you can take to become a chaser of strays?