

## Small Group Devotional Guide: “When We Wander”

We wander from God, but God never stops pursuing us.

### Opening

“God, please guide our conversation and give us open hearts.”

### Icebreaker

Question to share (briefly): What’s the farthest you’ve ever been from home or a safe place—physically or emotionally?

### Scripture

Read together: Romans 5:1–2.

Optional readings to explore this week: Isaiah 53:6; Luke 15:4; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:2; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Colossians 1:21–22; Ephesians 2:8–9; 1 Peter 1:3.

### Sermon Summary (short)

- We all wander: sin separates us from God.
- Jesus makes peace possible: His life, death, and substitution restore our standing before God.
- Grace is now our standing: salvation is by faith, not by works.
- Our future has hope: new life and secure hope in Christ.

### Discussion and Reflection

Use these to reflect and share. You don’t have to answer everything—share what’s helpful.

### Understanding the Text

- What does “peace with God” (Romans 5:1) mean to you? How is this different from merely feeling peaceful?
- How do Isaiah 53:6 and Isaiah 59:2 explain why we wander and what separation from God looks like?

### Personal Reflection

- Where have you most recently felt distant from God—in belief, behavior, or motivation?
- Have you experienced God pursuing you while you were wandering? Describe what that looked or felt like.

### Theology Applied

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Colossians 1:21–22. How does Christ’s substitution and reconciliation shape how you see yourself?
- Romans 5:2 and Ephesians 2:8–9 emphasize grace and faith. How can we live in grace and pursue holiness without sliding into license or legalism?

## Practical / Community

- If someone says, "I'm too far gone," how can you respond in a way that's truthful, loving, and hopeful?
- What practical steps can we take as a group to reach those who are wandering? (Examples: pray for specific people, invite someone to church, serve together, offer hospitality.)
- Name one tangible thing you will do this week to reconnect with God or reach someone who's wandering.

## Activity Option: Return Story

If someone is willing, listen to a 3–4 minute personal story about turning back to God and experiencing His pursuit. If no one volunteers, reflect silently on these prompts and share a phrase if you want:

- "When I wandered, God..."
- "What brought me back was..."
- "The hope I now have is..."

## Prayer Prompts

Pray for:

- Honest repentance and safe return where needed.
  - Assurance of peace with God for those who doubt.
  - Specific people you know who are wandering.
- Consider praying in pairs or trios for focused, specific needs.

## Personal Reflection Space

(Use this space to jot a sentence or two you can keep with you.)

- One insight I want to remember:
- One person I will pray for this week:
- One action I will take this week:

## Practical Next Steps

- Read Romans 5 and Luke 15 this week.
- Practice a short daily exercise: 1 minute confession of anything that separates you from God + 1 minute gratitude.
- Invite someone to church, a meal, or a coffee as a way of connecting.

## Closing

End together with a short prayer or the reading of 1 Peter 1:3.

Thank you for being present and honest. Consider keeping the reflection notes with you this week and revisiting them in prayer.