

#P7CLUBS | P7CLUBS.COM

# *The* **Chase**



**UPCI**  
YOUTH MINISTRIES



## PREVIEW

The things we chase after can be either good or bad, so we need to pursue those things with balance. In addition, everything we chase after—whether good or bad—has a cost associated with it.

## PRAISE

Did you know God loves you so much that when you chase after good things He is there? And when you pursue bad things, He is still there! Thank you, Lord!

## PARABLE

The American Bald Eagle has no known natural predators aside from humans. However, eagles face one danger that can cause them to lose their life. Eagles soar through the air, hunting for their next meal. When they spot prey, they will calculate in their head the fastest way to get there. This means eagles will take shortcuts through trees or across the water to reach their prey. However, their intense focus on their prey makes them completely blind to danger that may be lurking. This is the only way that eagles will lose their lives to lesser birds or forest animals.

Videos show how eagles will fly through the trees and sometimes their wings will hit a branch and throw them off balance or cause them to lose altitude. When that happens, they become vulnerable to attack by other animals, even other eagles. More eagles die every year from being attacked during a hunt than they do from fighting with other animals or eagles.

Just like the eagle, we can be so unaware of our surroundings during the chase that if we aren't careful, we won't see the impending doom of the things on either each side or behind us that are itching to zoom in and prey on us. What you chase after can propel you to greatness or sink you to the lowest of lows.

## PRESENT

(Have someone read Philippians 4:13 and ask the group what the verse means to them.) If we chase after the things of God, we can be sure that He will strengthen us and be with us. It's one of the greatest pieces of knowledge we have as believers.

Unfortunately, we sometimes chase after ungodly things that can bring pain or destruction. We are left wondering how on earth we got there. An eagle that is soaring so beautifully through the sky one second never expects to be falling to destruction the next second. It never intends to be drowning in the water because it spotted some salmon and didn't see another eagle who was chasing the same prey.

Like that eagle, we encounter consequences when we chase after the wrong things. In the excitement of the chase some of the things may not seem wrong at the moment. We are so focused on the pursuit that we don't notice the surroundings. Even if we're chasing something with the best of intentions, we can end up drowning in predicaments, feeling empty, broken, and full of pain. We wonder how on earth we got here. Sometimes we begin to question: Does God really love me? Is He even real? Why am I going through this? Why did I chase after that thing? Why wasn't I more aware of my surroundings? These questions reveal a lack of trust or faith in God. But God is with us to give us strength and mercy when we fall while chasing the wrong things.

(Read John 3:16.) Even when we were chasing after something wrong, God cared enough about us to die for our sins! (Read Rom. 6:23.) If you feel like you're lying on the forest floor like the eagle that's been knocked off the chase, please know that God is extending His merciful hand to you in that very moment.

## **PRACTICE**

What are some things we chase? What are the benefits of chasing after God? Can anyone share a time when they felt like the eagle that fell or was knocked down? What happened afterward? How did you get back up? Name a time when you felt God's mercy while you were chasing the wrong things.

## **PRAY**

Thank you, God, for Your mercy when we chase after the wrong things. Thank You for Your grace to pick us back up again. Give us wisdom to chase the right things. Give us peace to seek the things that will increase our hunger to chase after You! Thank you for loving us and never leaving us.

## PLUS

This week find some things that you're chasing and do a self-evaluation. What do you foresee on the other end of that chase?