



Introduction

We are in the third week of the Advent series, And Now for Some Good News. Last week, Pastor John helped us understand God's Big Plan included everyone who is in Christ, even when we have a past history of failure, because His plan doesn't depend on us, but upon God. This week, we learn the Good News that before we went looking for God, He was already looking for us.

Discussion

1. Christianity is a relationship with God, not a set of rules to appease a god. **Read Psalm 145:18-19.** Has there ever been a time in your life where you felt like you were only "doing" for God instead of "living" for Him? Share with the group about the experience and how God helped you live for Him.
2. Christianity has an empty tomb. Everyone else has bones. **Read Matthew 28:6.** Share with the group a time when you had to explain your faith in a resurrected King.
3. Christianity is the only religion that teaches God came to us. He pursued us. **Read Matthew 1 and Luke 1.** This is Mary's story of God initiating contact with her. Share with the group the moment when you acknowledged Christ's pursuit of you by believing in Him.

Think About It

Like any good Iowan, we always want to do the right things – the commonsense thing. However, sometimes God comes to you and asks you do to something that, at least on the surface, isn't commonsense. In fact, it might be pretty costly.

Do Something

1. Since God has come to you, how are dealing with it? Is God speaking to you about something that makes you uncomfortable? Ask God to give you strength to handle the situation. Give it to Him.
2. Do you find yourself in an internal fight – disturbed by God's closeness – where it's hard to be second and make Him first? God says to surrender your life to Him. It's time to cross over the Faith Line.
3. Prayerfully consider who to invite to your Christmas Eve service. "Pursue" them with a personal invite and save them a seat! (or even better-bring them with you!)