

Finding God

Week Three

Main Idea

When we deal with the distracting thorns in our lives, we create space for God to transform our lives.

Starter

Share a story with your group of an injury or illness that kept you from doing the things you loved to do for a length of time.

Discuss

This series shows us the four phases people move through in their relationship with God:

Exploring God → Beginning with God → Close to God → God-Centered

This week, we learned that there are many things that distract us from growing “close to God” consistently. What things specifically distracted you this week?

How is God working in your life through the time you spent with Him this week?

What does the Bible say?

Read [1 Peter 5:7](#).

What is a care or anxiety that you consistently try to “carry” instead of “casting”? How has it kept you from growing closer to God?

Read [1 Timothy 6:17](#).

What are some of the ways that you are tempted to put your hope in wealth instead of God?

Read [1 John 2:16](#).

The desire to acquire new and more things can rob us of satisfaction with what we have. What is one thing you regularly desire that other people have? How has that impacted your relationship with God?

Apply the message

Take a minute to each write two to three “thorns” that are distracting you from growing in your relationship with Jesus.

When everyone is finished, share as time allows.

Finally, write your name on your list and trade it with someone else in the group. Take time to pray for each other’s “thorns” this week.