

Week 4:

Intentionally Pursuing Community

Purpose	To delight in spending time with the Lord and to believe that He delights in spending time with us.
(0-10 mins)	Welcome and Intro (Group Time) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Everyone meets in room for life group• Leaders explain the purpose of the Prayer Experience<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prayer Experience: to spend time <i>with</i> God and remain open to what He may have for you today.• Give members handout: Prayer Experience
10-15 mins	Centering Ourselves on God and His Word (Group Time: 10 minutes) <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read the first page out loud to your group. Allow them to settle into a quiet space and give them time to reflect/write down how they are feeling. Encourage them to share honestly with the Lord how they feel about extended time with Him.2. Next, read Psalm 8 out loud, two times, slowly. Ask, “What catches your attention in this passage?”3. Invite everyone to turn to the pages with the names and character of God. As they read over the names, which names/characteristics make them pause and draw them into deeper reflection/praise? <p>Remind the group that what you just did--calling out God’s character--is a part of prayer. We just lived out communal prayer/praise! We prepared our hearts together, centering our minds on the Lord, now we’ll go out to spend time in solitude. Excuse group members to find a place to pray (around campus, the house, outside, neighborhood, etc.)</p>
(45-60 mins)	Time Alone with God (45-60 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group members can find a quiet space on the property to sit, take a walk, or a mixture of the two• Encourage them to remain open to how this time can be spent with God--there are no “right” ways of doing the Prayer Experience• Remind everyone to return at the time decided<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If your group is 1.5 hours: prayer time is 45 mins• If our group time is 2 hours prayer time is 1 hour
(3 the 0-50 mins)	Break Fast & Debrief Prayer Experience in Community) <p>Return to your group and break the fast with food you brought</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What was it like to fast in preparation for the Prayer Experience?• What did fasting reveal to you about yourself? About God?• How was your time alone with God?• What came up in you during that time?• What was one word to describe your experience today.• Close your time thanking the Lord for today