

Chase the Goose: Reclaiming the Adventure of Living a Spirit-Led Life

Have churches done to people what zoos do to animals?
Have churches tried to tame Christians in the name of Christ?
When we try to remove the risk, struggle, and danger from following Jesus, we end up with 'caged Christians'.

But what if we could break out of the cage and reclaim a sense of spiritual adventure? The Celtic Christians seemed to capture a life like that well with their name for the Holy Spirit – *An Geadh-Glas*, or The Wild Goose.

Life in step with the Holy Spirit is a little like a Wild Goose chase – mysterious, unpredictable, and adventuresome.

Circumstantial uncertainty goes by another name – *adventure*.

- **Right now, where are you on the spectrum between “playing it safe” and “living dangerously for God”**
- **Praying for protection is fine; But when was the last time you asked God to make you dangerous?**

Read Luke 18:18-29

“What do I still lack?” I think there was a deep-seated longing within him for something more than simply not doing anything wrong. Simply not breaking the prohibitive commandments isn't spiritually satisfying.

But too many of us end up settling for spiritual mediocrity instead of striving for spiritual maturity.

Jesus speaks to that deep-seated longing for adventure by challenging us to come out of the cage. But coming out of the cage means giving up the very thing in which we find our security and identity outside of Christ.

- **What do you still lack that keeps you from radically following Christ?**

Chase the Goose is a six-session study that encourages young adults to take hold of the passions God has put in all of our hearts. True goose-chasers will glean wisdom from studying the lives of Nehemiah, Moses, Abraham, Peter, Paul, and Jonathan as they are challenged to leave behind the cages of responsibility, routine, guilt, failure, assumptions, and fear that have held us back in the past.

1. The Cage of Responsibility – Practicing Responsible Irresponsibility with Nehemiah

Our God-ordained passions can get buried beneath day-to-day responsibilities. Less important responsibilities replace more important ones. And our responsibilities become spiritual excuses that keep us from the adventure God has destined for us. Without even knowing it we begin to practice “irresponsible responsibility”. The Wild Goose chase begins when we start practicing responsible irresponsibility and come to terms with our greatest responsibility – pursuing the passions God has planted in our hearts.

In this session, we go to work with a guy named Nehemiah, who walked away from some pretty important job responsibilities in order to embrace more important responsibilities.

2. The Cage of Routine – Learning the Danger of Empty Ritual with Moses

At some point in our journey, most of us trade adventure for routine. Some routines, like spiritual disciplines, can be good and actually help us become the people of God intended. But if sacred practices become routine, they need to be disrupted and reworked. Otherwise, they become empty rituals, and we find ourselves trapped.

In this session, we journey to the wilderness of Sinai with Moses, who was willing to throw down his staff, walk away from his sheep, and start shepherding God's people.

3. The Cage of Assumptions – Breaking out of the Eight-Foot Ceiling with Abraham

Our assumptions keep many of us from even chasing the Wild Goose. *I'm too old; I'm too young; I'm underqualified; I'm overqualified; It's too late; It's too soon.*

As we age, many of us stop believing and start assuming.

We stop living out of right-brain imagination and start living out of left-brain memory.

In this session, we join Abraham for a little stargazing to catch a glimpse of what is possible when you consider God in the equation of life.

4. The Cage of Guilt – Reconditioning our Conditioned Responses with Peter

The enemy's tactics haven't changed since the garden of Eden. He tries to neutralize us spiritually by getting us to focus on what we've done wrong in the past. As long as we are trapped by the guilt of what we've done wrong in the past; Satan uses guilt to turn us into reactionaries. Jesus came to recondition our spiritual reflexes with His grace and turn us into revolutionaries for His cause

As long as you are focused on what you've done wrong in the past, you may be blinded to the dreams God has in mind for you.

In this session, we follow Peter from the upper room to the courtyard of the high priest to the shore of Galilee and learn how Jesus can recondition our minds and hearts.

5. The Cage of Failure – Experiencing Shipwrecks and Snakebites with Paul

Sometimes our plans have to fail in order for God's plans to succeed. Divine detours and delays are often the paths God uses to get us where He wants us to go. This is the place where the Wild Goose chase will begin for many of us.

In this session, we will join Paul and other shipwreck survivors on the island of Malta to understand how our failure might turn into someone else's miracle.

6. The Cage of Fear – Climbing the Cliff with Jonathan

We need to quit living as if the purpose of life is to arrive safely at death. Instead, we need to start playing offense with our lives because the world needs more people with more daring plans.

In this session, we scale the wall with Jonathan, look the opposition in the eye, and dare to do dangerous things.

- **Of the six cages described, which one do you think most applies to your life? Why?**
- **Would you want to share a life story/testimony related to one of these?**
- **Would you want to lead one of the following studies/discussions?**