

2023-2024 “Seek God” Spiritual Formation Plan (Matrix) – District Office



“One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.” (Psalm 27:4, NIV)

|                                      | Gaze on God’s ...  |   |  | Seek God With ...   |   |   | Dwell in God’s ...  |   |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
|                                      | Beauty   | Mercy   | Faithfulness   | Patience  | Guidance  | Whole Heart   | Joy   | Security  | Goodness   |
|                                      | September<br>Psalm 27:4  | October<br>Psalm 27:7   | November<br>Psalm 27:1, 9  | December<br>Psalm 27:14   | January<br>Psalm 27:11  | February<br>Psalm 27:8  | March<br>Psalm 27:6   | April<br>Psalm 27:5   | May<br>Psalm 27:13   |
| <b>Focus Outcome and Description</b> | <b>S.5 Integrate a Biblical Worldview</b><br>Discerning leaders can integrate a biblical worldview into all aspects of life.   | <b>S.9 Share Testimony</b><br>Discerning leaders can share their personal testimony.  | <b>S.6 Pursue Life of Faith</b><br>Discerning leaders can pursue a life of faith, empowered by the Holy Spirit, knowing, understanding and using their spiritual and personal gifting to impact God’s kingdom.   | <b>S.3 Knowing God’s Word</b><br>Discerning leaders can know, understand, and apply God’s Word in daily life.   | <b>S2 Church Involvement</b><br>Discerning leaders participate in a local church community, serving God and others.   | <b>S.1 Relationship with Jesus</b><br>Discerning leaders can understand and commit to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.  | <b>S.7 Great Commission</b><br>Discerning leaders understand their role and respond to the First Commission and the Great Commission locally and around the world.  | <b>S.10 Understanding God’s Voice</b><br>Discerning leaders can listen for and respond to God’s voice.  | <b>S.8 Spiritual Disciplines</b><br>Discerning leaders are actively engaged in the spiritual disciplines.  |
| <b>Spiritual Life</b>                | GWSP   | Spiritual Life Survey   | Week of Generosity   | Christmas   | MLK Day   |   | Spiritual Emphasis Week   | Easter—Resurrection   | National Day of Prayer   |
|                                      | <b>I can understand that God is the definition of beauty.</b><br><b>James 1:17</b> —God does not change.<br><b>Revelation 1:16</b> —His appearance is like the sun at full strength.<br><b>Revelation 4:8</b> —He is pure holiness.<br><b>1 Peter 3:3-4</b> —God values what’s on the inside.<br><b>Discussion Questions:</b><br>What does God look like? What is the trait of God you find most beautiful? Which trait of God would you like more of in your life?  | <b>I can understand the definition of mercy.</b><br><b>Jonah 3:10</b> —God withholds punishment from Nineveh.<br><b>Genesis 42:25</b> —Joseph shows mercy to his brothers.<br><b>John 4:1-26</b> —Jesus shows mercy to the woman at the well.<br><b>Discussion Questions:</b><br>What does mercy mean to you? Share a time when someone showed you mercy.   | <b>I can understand that God is faithful to me.</b><br><b>Joshua 23:14</b> —God is faithful to keep His promises.<br><b>1 John 1:9</b> —God is faithful to forgive us for our sins when we ask Him.<br><b>Ruth 1:16-18</b> —Ruth was faithful to her mother-in-law, Naomi.<br><b>Discussion Questions:</b><br>How have you seen God’s faithfulness in your life? Describe a time when someone was faithful to you even when it was difficult.  | <b>I can understand that finding God oftentimes requires patience.</b><br><b>Matthew 1:18-25</b> —Mary has to be patient with Joseph.<br><b>Matthew 2:1-11</b> —In seeking after God, the wisemen have to be patient.<br><b>Matthew 2:13-23</b> —Mary has to be patient to return to her hometown of Nazareth after fleeing as a result of King Herod’s decree.<br><b>Discussion Questions:</b><br>Why is it so hard for you to be patient? In what ways do we sometimes have to be patient in order to find God?   | <b>I can understand that receiving guidance from others is a benefit to me.</b><br><b>Genesis 3:6-7</b> —Adam and Eve are guided in a subtle, unassuming way.<br><b>1 Samuel 3:1-10</b> —Young Eli needs the wisdom of Samuel to discern God’s voice.<br><b>Proverbs 11:14</b> —It is wise for us to receive guidance from others.<br><b>Discussion Questions:</b><br>Is it easy or hard for you to receive advice? Why or why not? Describe a time when someone gave you good advice and you listened.                               | <b>I can understand that seeking God with my whole heart means seeking Him with urgency.</b><br><b>Jeremiah 29:13</b> —When we seek Him, we will find Him.<br><b>Mark 5:25-34</b> —A sick woman finds healing because she is willing to overcome anything to get to Him.<br><b>Matthew 7:7</b> —Jesus said that if we seek Him, we will find Him.<br><b>Discussion Questions:</b><br>What sometimes prevents you from making your relationship with God the number one thing in your life? Describe a time when you sought God with your whole heart. What did you experience within your search? | <b>I can understand that living with godly joy is defined as a sense of contentment that is far greater than happiness.</b><br><b>Luke 2:9-11</b> —Joy is found in Jesus.<br><b>Acts 12:12-17</b> —Rhoda is filled with joy at the news that Peter has been freed from prison.<br><b>Philippians 3:7-11</b> —Paul experiences joy while in prison.<br><b>Discussion Questions:</b><br>What is the difference between happiness and joy? Share a time when you experienced joy in your life.   | <b>I can understand that God’s presence is always with me no matter where I go.</b><br><b>Matthew 28:20</b> —Jesus is with us until the end of time.<br><b>John 10:11-13</b> —Jesus is with Mary Magdalene even though she doesn’t recognize Him.<br><b>John 16:33</b> —God’s presence does not guarantee that things won’t be hard, but when they are, He will be with us.<br><b>Discussion Questions:</b><br>What does God’s presence “feel” like? How do you know if God is with you or not? Share a time when you felt God’s presence.  | <b>I can understand that the goodness of God is rooted in His love for me and not something I can earn.</b><br><b>Luke 15:11-32</b> —God is like the father who loves unconditionally.<br><b>Ephesians 3:18</b> —The love of God for us cannot be measured or fully understood.<br><b>Luke 7:36-50</b> —A woman experiences God’s goodness through forgiveness from Jesus.<br><b>Discussion Questions:</b><br>Why is it sometimes so hard for people to receive the gift of salvation (as opposed to <i>striving to earn it</i> )? What’s the most difficult thing about accepting the truth that God loves you unconditionally? Why? Share your thoughts. |
|                                      | <b>I can experience God’s beauty by observing with awe and wonder the details of His creation.</b><br><b>Isaiah 40:26</b> —Creation declares His glory.<br><b>Psalms 139:14</b> —We are fearfully and wonderfully made.<br><b>Genesis 1:27</b> —We bear the image of God.<br><b>Psalms 104:24-25</b> —The beauty of the world reflects God’s wisdom.<br><b>Discussion Questions:</b> In what ways do we learn about God by looking at His creation? Share a time when you felt close to God while being outside. | <b>I can experience God’s mercy through Jesus.</b><br><b>1 Peter 2:22-24</b> —Jesus did not fail—He did not sin—but He took responsibility for humanity’s failings.<br><b>Mark 2:1-12</b> —Jesus forgives and heals a paralytic.<br><b>Proverbs 28:13</b> —When we confess our sin, He is faithful to forgive our sin.<br><b>Discussion Question:</b> How did God show mercy to us through Jesus? | <b>I can understand that God is faithful to me even when I am going through difficult times.</b><br><b>Genesis 16:10</b> —God is faithful to His promise to Hagar.<br><b>Deuteronomy 31:6</b> —Even when things get difficult, God is faithful to us and never leaves us nor forsakes us.<br><b>Romans 8:28</b> —God can create something good out of the difficult things we experience.<br><b>Discussion Questions:</b><br>Why is it so hard to see God’s presence with us while going through difficult times? Describe a time in your life when you experienced God’s presence during a very difficult time. | <b>I can know that God is faithful when we seek Him with patience.</b><br><b>Isaiah 9:6</b> —Isaiah prophesies that the Messiah will come as a baby.<br><b>Luke 2:25-35</b> —Simeon seeks God with patience, and God blesses him by allowing him to see the Messiah.<br><b>Luke 1:6-13</b> —God blesses Elizabeth’s patience by giving her a son, John the Baptist.<br><b>Discussion Questions:</b> Share a time when God answered your prayer after you had prayed the same request for a long time. Describe a time when you found God as a result of your being patient. | <b>I can experience God’s guidance through reading His Word.</b><br><b>Psalms 119:105</b> —The Bible guides our steps in life.<br><b>2 Timothy 3:16-17</b> —Scripture is God-breathed.<br><b>2 Kings 22:8-12</b> —King Josiah uses the Scriptures as a guide to create revival in his kingdom.<br><b>Discussion Questions:</b><br>How do you know the difference between godly advice and ungodly advice? How does the Bible give us godly advice? Share a time when you received guidance from God through your reading of His Word. | <b>I can understand that seeking God with my whole heart means using all my time, talents, and treasures for Him.</b><br><b>Matthew 25:14-30</b> —God wants us to use the talents He has given us for the kingdom.<br><b>Mark 12:41-44</b> —The widow gives all she has.<br><b>Romans 16:1-2</b> —Phoebe uses her house to bless others.<br><b>Discussion Questions:</b><br>What is your favorite talent you use for God? Share a time when someone benefited from a talent God gave you.   | <b>I can understand that my joy is found in God’s unconditional love for me.</b><br><b>Romans 5:8</b> —God showed His unconditional love for me by sending His Son to die for me.<br><b>Romans 8:38-39</b> —Nothing can separate us from God’s love.<br><b>Genesis 30:22-24</b> —Rachel experiences joy from bearing a son.<br><b>Discussion Questions:</b><br>What is unconditional love? How have you experienced unconditional love? Share a time when you experienced unconditional love. | <b>I can trust God to secure my eternal future.</b><br><b>John 3:16</b> —Jesus came so that we can have eternal life.<br><b>1 Peter 1:3-5</b> —In Christ, God has secured our life after death.<br><b>John 11:21-27</b> —We can receive eternal life by believing that Jesus is the Messiah, like Martha of Bethany does.<br><b>Discussion Questions:</b><br>How would you describe heaven to someone who has never heard of it? What often prevents us from thinking about life after death? What is the one thing you are most looking forward to when it comes to eternity with God? | <b>I can understand that all good things come from God.</b><br><b>Luke 11:11-13</b> —We can trust God to give us what is best for us.<br><b>James 1:17</b> —Every good thing we have is given to us from God.<br><b>John 6:11</b> —Jesus thanks God for the gift of food.<br><b>Discussion Questions:</b><br>What is one thing you regularly use or benefit from that you often take for granted? Share a few things you are thankful to God for.  |
| <b>Scripture Memorization Week 1</b> | Psalm 27:4; Revelation 1:16  | Psalm 27:7  | Psalm 27:1   | Psalm 27:14   | Psalm 27:11   | Psalm 27:8  | Psalm 27:6  | Psalm 27:5  | Psalm 27:13  |
| <b>Week 2</b>                        | Revelation 4:8   | Mark 2:5  | Joshua 23:14   | Isaiah 9:6  | Psalm 119:105   | Mark 12:44  | Philippians 3:8   | 1 Peter 1:3   | Ephesians 3:18   |
| <b>Week 3</b>                        | Psalm 139:14   | 1 Peter 2:24  | 1 John 1:9   | Luke 1:31   | 2 Timothy 3:16  | Jeremiah 29:13  | Matthew 5:12  | John 11:25  | James 1:17   |
| <b>Week 4</b>                        | Psalm 104:24-25  | Proverbs 28:13  | Deuteronomy 31:6   | Luke 2:14   | Romans 8:14-17  | Proverbs 2:4  | Philippians 1:4   | Matthew 28:20   | Romans 8:28  |