

Not Alone: God's Relentless Pursuit

Group Discussion Guide | June 21

### **Series overview and leader instructions**

“Not Alone” is an 11-week journey through the Old Testament, tracing God’s desire to dwell with His people and His faithful work to bring redemption. Through every season—deliverance, provision, rebellion, exile, and restoration—we see one unified story of grace, pointing to Jesus and the promise of God dwelling with His people forever.

The sermons in this series will take a fly-over, covering multiple chapters—and sometimes multiple books—in a single sermon. You may find that some people in your group may be unfamiliar with these stories and benefit from some additional context.

We recommend incorporating videos from The Bible Project books of the Bible overview videos as needed. As the leader, you can decide whether to watch the videos as a group or send them out in your group chat or via email for people to watch on their own, or some combination of the two.

For this week, you may even consider breaking your group into four smaller groups such that each smaller group can watch an individual video below and then report back on what they learned to the group as a whole when you reconvene.

Here are overview videos of...

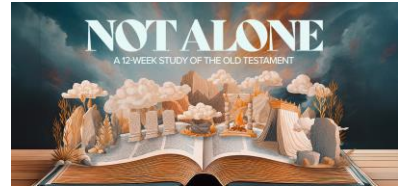
- [Proverbs](#)
- [Ecclesiastes](#)
- [Job](#)
- [Song of Songs](#)

As always, use the group discussion guide below in the way that works best for *your* group. Linger on questions that yield fruitful discussion. Break into pairs or smaller groups for conversation or keep the discussion in the larger group. You know your group! Use this guide as a template but make it your own.

### **Opening reflection questions (10 minutes).**

*Begin your time together by inviting people to share their answers to the following:*

- What new idea did you learn from the Bible Project video(s)? What stood out?



- Are there any famous family proverbs you grew up hearing from either parents or grandparents (e.g. “Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game!”)
- When you’re in need of wisdom, where do you go and why?

**Discuss the sermon and book of Psalms (45 minutes).**

- What stood out to you or challenged you from Jeff's sermon?
- Read Proverbs 8:35. Why do you think there's such a close connection between wisdom and “life?”

In his sermon, Jeff said that the invitation of Proverbs is simple: (1) Learn from those who have walked before you; (2) Receive wisdom; and (3) Live wisely.

- Which of those three invitations do you struggle with the most? Explain.
- In what ways does foolishness play itself out in your life?
- Can you think of a time when you refused to learn from others who walked before you, when you refused to see wisdom as wisdom, or when you refused to “live wisely?” Explain.
- What would it look like to ask, “Is it wise?” before making decisions? What would change in your life if you did that? Can you think of any past scenarios that would change had you asked that question?

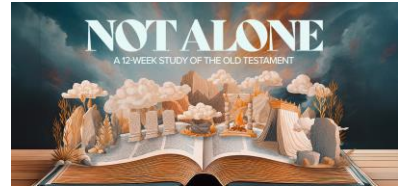
Moving from Proverbs, and the question, “Is it wise?,” Jeff then turned to Ecclesiastes, and with it, the question, “Is it meaningful?”

- On a scale of 1-10, would you say your life is full of meaning? Explain.
- Where does the world often say meaning is found?
- Where are true meaning and purpose found?
- Where are you most tempted to find meaning in life (that isn't God)?
- What is it that brings about a meaning-filled life?

After discussing meaning, Jeff then talked about the book of Song of Songs and the question, “Am I loved?”

- Do you know that you are loved by God?
- How do you know?
- What barriers prevent you from feeling that?

In his sermon, Jeff summed everything up by stating, “Proverbs asks: ‘Is it wise?’ Ecclesiastes asks: ‘Is there meaning?’ Song of Songs asks: ‘Am I loved?’ These are not merely the questions of the



Wisdom Books. These are the questions of every human heart. And Jesus answers all three. He is the Wisdom of God. He is the Meaning of Life. He is the Bridegroom who loves His people.”

- Do you believe these words? That Jesus is all these things? Why or why not?
- Are there any places you're desiring a deeper sense of Jesus in any of these ways? Explain.
- Did anything else from the sermon stand out to you?

**Closing prayer (10 minutes).**

Consider closing by sharing prayer requests and praying for the needs expressed as well as anything that came out of your group time together.