

SCC Small Group Discussion

The Inviting God: Relationship

Derived from a sermon on September 6, 2026 by Dr. Jeff Chandler

Getting Started:

Opener: Have you ever sensed God inviting you into his plans and purposes? If so, what happened and how would you describe it?

Searching the Scriptures:

Read Deuteronomy 4:29-31

²⁹ But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul. ³⁰ When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the Lord your God and obey him. ³¹ For the Lord your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your ancestors, which he confirmed to them by oath.

I. Seek God with your whole heart (verses 4:29-30)

1. Verse 29 begins by saying “But if from there...” look at the beginning of chapter 4 for the journey the people of Israel have been on. By verse 28, where have they ended up, and how might they be feeling at that point?
2. Read Jeremiah 29:10-14 which occurs during the time of exile hundreds of years later. How do the promises expressed here give you hope in your darkest times?
3. Have you ever felt “in exile” and then later experienced “a return” to God? What was it like?

II. God is Merciful, Compassionate and Faithful (verse 31)

4. Comment on this statement: God’s “jealous fire” (Deuteronomy 4:24) purges sin to preserve the relationship, while his compassion limits judgment so that his people are never completely consumed or abandoned.” (Lamentations 3:22-23)

5. Has God ever brought you or a friend through the fire to purge a sin, and then provided a miraculous restoration? What did it teach you?

III. God desires relationship with us (verse 31)

6. Why is God's memory of his oath to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob the primary anchor for Israel's future hope, rather than Israel's own obedience?
7. When you experience failure or face the consequences of poor spiritual choices, do you tend to view God as a harsh judge who turns away, or as a compassionate Father who will not lose hold of you? How does viewing God through the lens of Deuteronomy 4:31 change how you might approach him in the future?

Application and Prayer

If you find yourself experiencing the painful consequences of your own missteps or spiritual wandering, what steps can you take right now to seek God "with all your heart" rather than settling for guilt or despair?

If your own faith feels weak or inconsistent, what will help anchor your security in God's character and unchanging promises? What would you tell a friend who is going through this season?

Get discussion questions in word format & link to Bible App plan for this week at www.sequimcommunitychurch.org/downloads