

INTIMACY WITH GOD STUDY

Group Leader Notes

Introduction:

God desires an intimate relationship with each of us. When He created man (and woman) and placed them in the garden, we see where this was occurring as it was God's heart and intention from the very beginning. With the fall of man, that relationship was broken.

God sent His Son (Jesus) to earth to die in our place so that relationship with Him could be re-gained. That relationship begins when we repent of our sins and make Him Lord of our lives.

To draw nearer to God in an intimate fellowship with Him, the following are points to bring out:

JAMES 4:8

To have that intimate relationship with God, two things are required of us.

1. To draw near: we make the initial step – we draw near and then God will
2. God requires us to seek Him (see also 2 Chronicles 15:2)
3. We must purify ourselves: We see a foreshadow of this in the Old Testament. (See Exodus 19:22) In the sanctuary, the priests were required to do this.
4. Wash your hands: purity in what our hands do and come in contact with
Again: in the Old Testament (Exodus 30:19-21) Aaron and his sons were required to wash their hands and feet.

HEBREWS 10:22

1. We are to draw near with a true heart: this means to have a right and genuine attitude toward God
2. A full assurance of faith: there is to be a full conviction
Faith is the basis of all our right relationship with God
Unwavering in confidence: there is to be no room for doubt
3. Our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience.
Pure thoughts/free from guilt
4. Our bodies washed in water.
This is an indication of baptism: the old life has been dead and buried and we have risen to a new life in Christ.
See also 1 Peter 3:21, Titus 3:5

There needs to be a thoroughness undergone by one who surrenders himself, soul, body, and spirit, to God.

Pass out copies of the Intimacy with God chart to go over, look up Scriptures and discussion.

INTIMACY WITH GOD

HUMAN INTIMACY	SPIRITUAL INTIMACY
Human Marriage	<p>Jesus will return for His bride – the church</p> <p>Ephesians 5:22-33; Matthew 22:1-14 Revelation 19:7-9</p> <p>(Matthew 22:23-30 – This is <u>not</u> human marriage or human intimacy)</p>
Human Birth	<p>God wanting His own children, His own people</p> <p>2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Jeremiah 30:22 Ezekiel 36:26-28 and 37:27</p>
Protection and Affectionate Love as of a Hen Covering Her Brood	<p>Jesus weeping over Jerusalem, wanting to protect and love her as the hen with her brood.</p> <p>Luke 13:31-35</p>
Greeting a Guest at the Door of One's Home to Welcome that Guest in For a Meal	<p>Jesus knocks at the door of our hearts, desiring entrance. If entrance is granted to Him, He promises to dine with us in intimate fellowship.</p> <p>Revelation 3:20; Luke 12:36-37</p>