



Title : **THE BLESSING OF INTIMACY**

Date: August 29, 2021

**WORSHIP:** Sing one or two songs (either from You Tube, or someone leading worship). If you're in a public place, café or on video messaging, three to four people can share testimonies of answered prayers.

**Q:** What are you thankful to God about this past week?

**Main Text: Genesis 2:21-25**

**V.24-25** *24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be[k] joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

**Quote:** • It is more than a piece of paper wherein two people (man and a woman) agree to be together in a relationship as husband and wife for life but...

• Marriage is a relationship the couple is establishing and recognizing God at the center of the marriage!! A biblical marriage includes God, recognizes God as part of the agreement, part of the covenant! (Genesis 2:21-24).

**Leader's Notes:**

1. Start and end on time.
2. Facilitate discussions.
3. Give all attendees opportunities to share. Encourage participation.
4. Remind everyone that whatever shared in the group will be kept within the group.
5. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit if there's someone who you can lead to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior and be born again.

**WORK: The Challenge & Closing prayer**

**Q:** How can we pray for you today?

**Q:** Who among your loved ones or friends you think need an encounter with Jesus today? Can you list at least five names?

Please take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another as well as pray for the names of people on your list. If there are specific needs, take time to lift them up to God in prayer as well.

**WELCOME:**

**Intro:** Marriage was designed to be the most intimate of all human-to-human relationships. More intimate even than that of the parent and child relationship. It was designed by God to make two people become "one". If there is intimacy involved between two married individuals, in the same way in our spiritual lives, God wants us to be intimate with Him and He wants to reveal Himself to us... if we will be willing to walk daily in intimacy with Him.

**Ice Breaker:** Do you believe in the statement. "they lived happily ever after!" Or is there such a thing as "forever?"

**WORD & Discussion Questions:**

**Two Blessings of Being Intimate With God**

**1. HE REVEALS HIS SECRETS TO HIS DISCIPLES v.10**

Jesus is calling us to be His whole-hearted, devoted followers! This is what DISCIPLESHIP IS ALL ABOUT! Not in a casual relationship, not like that of an acquaintance. But in intimate relationship with Him! A real and Close ENCOUNTER!

He requires a commitment to leave our selfish life and plans and give our all to Him. Similar to that of what is required of a man and woman entering into marriage, leave their parents, leave their single self focused life and cleave to each other.

**Gen.2:24** *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be[k] joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."*

**Q: Who do you open yourself to when it comes to your secrets? What makes you open up to that person?**

**2. HE CALLS US TO DEVOTE OURSELVES TO THE STUDY OF HIS WORD TO HEAR HIS VOICE**

**The parable of the Sower explains 4 kinds of people in relation to God and His Word. (Mark 4:1-9)**

The Word sown on the pathway - People who have no time and desire whatsoever for God and His word. The Word sown on stony ground - People who are shallow in their commitment to God, who do not want to go all the way with God. The Word sown among thorns - People who are divided in their devotion. Half to the Lord and the other half to worldly cares and pleasures.

But the Word sown on good ground - people who wholeheartedly want to know God and hear what He wants to say (*he who has ears to hear, let him hear!*) so he can be more intimate with God and walk side by side with Him. They devote substantial time and effort to worship and know God, through prayer and the study of His word. The reading and study of God's word is not merely for the purpose of information (head knowledge) but to "hear God" to know Him intimately and enjoy oneness with Him in everything. "And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples." Mark 4:34b

**Q: Can you share about the most recent time when after reading God's Word you sensed the Lord spoke to you a specific message? How did you respond to that message?**

**Q: When you read the bible, was there a time that you felt that the Lord was talking to you in the verses? How did you respond?**

**Conclusion:**

The true fruits of our intimacy with God are growing in Christ-like character, and the difference we make in other people's lives for the glory of God. What a blessing it is to know that we sinful humans by the blood of Jesus Christ can be intimate with God if we so choose and our lives reflective of God's love, goodness, and holiness impacting many in Jesus' name.