

Study #1: A Relationship with God

In this study we will examine the nature of the relationship God wishes to build with each one of us, and with us as a spiritual community. (Ex: How do you build a relationship with a friend?)

Time of Sharing: It is important to get to know each other (*John 13:34-35*) as we begin this journey together. Healthy relationships are crucial in life, with God and with one another. Take **a few minutes** for each person in the study to share **an overview** of your life (upbringing, spiritual journey, etc).

1. A God of Relationships. Matt. 22: 36-40.

A) Loving God is the greatest commandment. He wants us to love him with all that we are and all that we have. He wants a relationship. How would you describe your desire level for that type of relationship?

B) Loving people in a godly manner is our next highest priority spiritually. How are your relationships going currently?

2. Jesus is God, the Son. John 1: 1-3

A– Jesus is the Word of God, He was with God, and he is God. All Creation was made through him.

B– Jesus Came to Reveal God to us! **John 1: 14, John 14:9**

C- God became a man to reveal his glory. Jesus reveals the fullness of God's Grace (forgiveness, mercy, power, favor, help, etc.) and God's Truth (justice, judgment, discipline, accountability, etc.)

D- Do you believe Jesus is God, the Son? Are you in awe of the Son of God? Why or why not?

4- God is a Communicator. Hebrews 1: 1-2

A- vs. 1-2 God spoke. He used the prophets in the past (OT), but now God speaks to us through His Son! Have you ever felt God was communicating with you?

B– Application: God wants us to reach out to him! Would you be willing to let the Son communicate with you on a daily basis through his Word while we go through this study series together? We suggest one of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John). Take some meaningful time each day to read, reflect, and meditate on Jesus' teachings and his life. ***As you read God's Word, ask yourself what Jesus is trying to communicate to you through the scriptures. (Acts 17:10-12, and 26-27, Seek God by examining his Word!)***

5. Jesus Revealed the Father's Love. Luke 15: 11-24

A- Group Question: What are the characteristics of the Father(God) that Jesus reveals in this parable?

B- What is Jesus communicating to us about the type of relationship God wants to have with us?

C- One of main Biblical terms for those with a relationship with God is “children of God” (*Rom. 8:14*) We become a son or daughter of God when we are reborn spiritually (*John 3: 3-6*).

D- **God’s Involvement with us includes:** He created us (*Ps. 139: 13-14*), saves us (*Eph. 2: 8-9*), protects (*Is. 41:10*), comforts (*2 Cor. 1:3-5*), encourages (*Rom. 8:16*), believes in us (*Is. 40:31*), is with us (*Acts 18:9-10*), gives to us (*2 Tim. 1: 7-8*) confronts us (*2 Sam. 12*), disciplines us (*Heb. 12: 4-11*), forgives us (*Ps. 51*), and prepares a life in eternity for us (*Rom. 8: 22-25*) in the new heaven and new earth (*2 Pet. 3: 13*).

6- **Prayer: We relate back to the Father through Prayer (talking to God) (Luke 11: 1-11)**

A) Vs. 2 - 4 A good outline for prayer

*Relate to God as your Father, hallow(revere/hold in high honor) his name, pray for his kingdom to come (praying for things on earth to be the way they are in heaven where God’s will is always done), praying for daily provision, praying for sins to be forgiven and for the heart to quickly forgive others; prayers regarding temptation.

C) v. 5-9 God loves boldness in prayer: Jesus informs us to pray like the man who demanded bread from a friend at midnight and wouldn’t take “No” for an answer. We should ask, seek, and knock with “shameless audacity” like the man in this parable. He wants us to bother him!

D) V. 11-12. We are praying to a good Father who loves to bless us with more of his Holy Spirit (his presence, his power, his counsel, his comfort, his wisdom, his peace, his guidance, his assurance, his friendship, his conviction, his forgiveness) in our lives.

E) **Application:** Will you commit to talking to God (praying) each day while we are going through this Bible Study Series? Some find journaling helpful in this regard. Some find the closet the best place to focus, while others find nature or prayer walks the best way to connect.

7- **God’s relates with us as a Spiritual Family.**

A) **I Cor. 14: 26.** God’s family comes together to worship, according to the scriptures. We come before God as his people, a sacred assembly, offering our worship to him corporately. Our communication (worship) to him proceeds from our songs, prayers, testimonies, Lord’s Supper, and engaging his teachings together. God works to build our faith through our interactions with one another.

B) **Rev. 3: 1-6.** God relates to us as an assembly, not just as individuals.

C) **Application:** Will you commit to actively participating in worship services, small groups, and other spiritual functions in the church community to engage God relationally with us as an assembly (church)?

Prayer: God, thank you for wanting a relationship with us! We commit to seeking you with all of our hearts as we listen to your voice through the Word, as we share our hearts with you in prayer, and as we seek you in the various assembling times of Christ’s Body, the church.