

INTIMACY WITH GOD

INTRODUCTION

Although we believe that God cares for people, most of us still struggle with the idea that God cares for us as individuals. We have trouble believing that God really wants a close relationship with us. Perhaps it is just hard for us to believe that the creator of all things could possibly care about us individually when he has more important things to do—like running the universe. Yet, God is up to the challenge of maintaining an intimate relationship with each one of us. In fact, he wants nothing more. The real question is: Do we want a relationship with God?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think of someone with whom you have had a good relationship. What are some of the qualities that characterized that relationship?
2. How would you describe intimacy in a relationship?
3. How is a relationship with God similar to the relationships we have with others?
4. What are some things that get in the way of a good relationship with God?
5. How would you describe your relationship with God? What are some misconceptions you have about God that may be hurting your relationship with Him?
6. What are some things that have helped you grow closer to God? Why is trust such a critical element when it comes to intimacy in a relationship? Are there areas in which you don't trust God?
7. How can you grow closer to God, and ultimately develop a more intimate relationship with Him?

THINK ABOUT IT

How did today's study impact you? Is your relationship with God an intimate one? How can it be better?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Would you consider acting on the things that hurt and/or help with your intimacy with God? Are there some steps you can take that will develop intimacy in your everyday life?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,^[m] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. —Romans 8:38-39