

Sermon Study Guide

Genesis 1-3

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Week of January 7, 2024

Title: **“Intimacy with God”**

Sermon Idea: God created us for and invites us to intimacy with Him.

Key Points:

1. Intimacy means relating to God in a close, honest, safe, shared love.
2. God invites us to intimacy with Him.
3. The Holy Spirit is our guide for diving deeply into intimacy with God.

What do I want people to know? I want people to know that God created us for intimacy with Him and each other. That is only possible as we get right with Him through faith in Jesus and as we walk in step with the Holy Spirit.

What do I want people to do? I want people to (1) prepare a special place to meet with God, (2) release distractions to God, (3) praise and adore God, (4) have two-way communication, (5) listen to God in the quiet, and (6) practice His presence.

What need am I addressing? I am addressing the need for intimacy with God.

Recommended Resources: *“Intimacy with the Almighty,”* by Chuck Swindoll; *“The Practice of the Presence of God,”* Brother Lawrence

Intro: Who has had the biggest impact on your life? What was it about this person that influenced you so much?

Dig:

Day 1: Genesis 1-3 recounts the creation of humanity and the fall of humanity. Describe this part of the biblical story in your own words by focusing on what God intended for relationships between humans and with God.

Day 2: Mark 1:35 gives us a glimpse into Jesus’ practice of prayer. What stands out to you about this example? How does this inspire you?

Day 3: 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 explains the role of the Holy Spirit in us knowing God’s mind. What does the Holy Spirit do? What makes the Holy Spirit such a great spiritual guide?

Day 4: Isaiah 50:4 is a “double prophecy.” It speaks of Isaiah’s role as a prophet of God and also of the coming Messiah. What part does listening play in doing God’s work?

Day 5: Revelation 3:20 is an astounding invitation from God to His people. Can we claim this promise for ourselves today? If so, what does the context reveal about how to “open the door” to intimacy with God?

Apply:

1. Prepare a place where you meet privately with God each day.
2. Look for a SPECK in your bible reading: Sin to avoid, Promise to believe, Example to follow, Command to obey, Knowledge to retain.
3. Keep intimate with God throughout your day by practicing the presence of God.

Pray: Dear Father, thank You for creating me for intimacy with You and others. I’m grateful that through faith in Christ, the way back to intimacy with You has been bridged. Help me to keep in synch with You, Holy Spirit, throughout my day so that I keep arm and arm with You. May I hear Your voice, morning after morning, “emptying my pockets” of concerns and confessions, adoring You, talking to You through Your Word, listening carefully to You in the quiet and walking in obedience to Your pleasure!
