

Increasing Our
Intimacy with
God

Dear God,

Attendee Workbook

Part 1 Engage

MEMORY VERSE

Jeremiah 31:3 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, [saying], Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

ENGAGE QUESTIONS

How do you personally recognize someone showing love towards you? Is it through gifts, doing something for you, spending time with you, or some other way? Tell us how someone could most adequately express genuine and sincere love towards you.

What is your earliest memory of God's spirit dealing with you?



Part 2 Develop

GOD WANTS GOOD FOR US

Intimacy is a close _____ and affectionate or loving _____ relationship with someone.

Jeremiah 29:11-14 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. 12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. 13 And ye shall seek me, and find [me], when ye shall search for me with all your heart. 14 And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.

_____ God wants good for us, allows us to _____ Him through anything.

Romans 8:28-31 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [to be] conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God [be] for us, who [can be] against us?

Circumstances are _____ but _____ lasts forever.

Question for Discussion

What difficulty have you faced that has caused the most growth in your life?

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Week 1 - Through Understanding

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VISION

Proverb 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keep the law, happy is he

_____ the word of God gives us _____ and vision to pattern our life after Jesus.

Philippians 4:7-8 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. 8. Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

_____ on what you want to have in your life, not on a _____ or what you want removed.

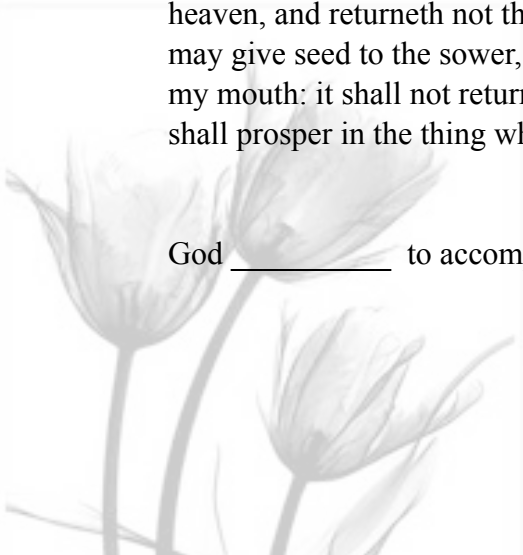
Question for Discussion

What has God told you to do through His word that you haven't started doing yet?

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR LIMITED UNDERSTANDING

Isaiah 55:8-11 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my wayshigher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater 11. So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

God _____ to accomplish a _____.



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Week 1 - Through Understanding

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His word always _____ and _____ it's intent.

Questions for Discussion

What purpose is God trying to fulfill through you? How do you allow His word to be used in your life?

What trial or struggle do you need prayer for to see the lesson or purpose instead of the pain or frustration?



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Week 2 - Through Prayer

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Part 1 Engage

MEMORY VERSE

James 4:8 - Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse [your] hands, [ye] sinners; and purify [your] hearts, [ye] double minded.

ENGAGE QUESTIONS

Where you taught any prayers when you were young that you still remember to this day?

When you pray do you tend to me more formal, or do you tend to talk to God more like a close friend or possibly a parent? What is your common conversational style with God?



Part 2 Develop

THE PURPOSE OF PRAYER

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

When we begin to _____ a prayer relationship with God, we come to _____ God's voice with greater clarity.

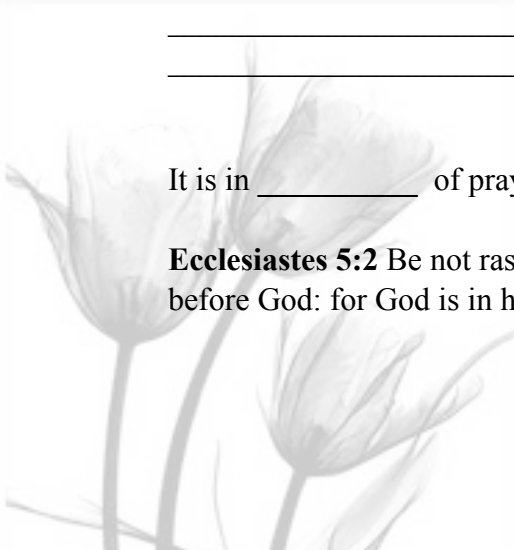
Matthew 6:5-13 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. 7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. 8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. 9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Question for Discussion

What is your prayer "closet"? This could be a literal place or metaphoric, meaning how do you spend your quality time with God in prayer?

It is in _____ of prayer that true _____ in our relationship with God takes place.

Ecclesiastes 5:2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.



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Week 2 - Through Prayer

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_____ is an _____ part of prayer.

Question for Discussion

What is your biggest struggle in prayer? Is it finding time? Is it focus? What priorities do you need to adjust as you think about the word Jesus just said?

God cares about our everyday _____ and _____.

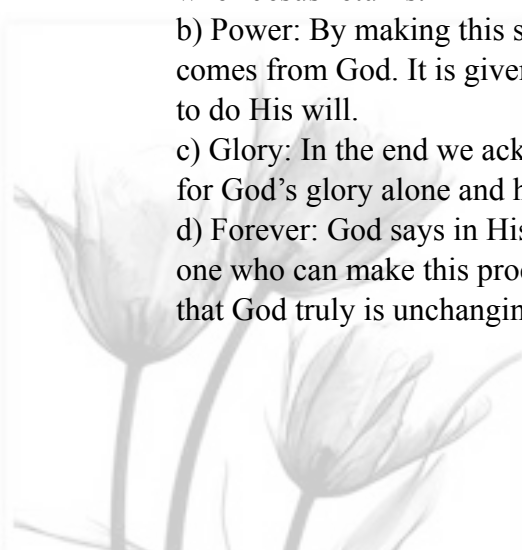
Holding _____ prevents us from being _____.

Question for Discussion

Are you holding on to a hurt or a grudge against someone? Would you like to pray with the group for the strength to forgive that person and restore your relationship with God?

The kingdom, power and glory all belong to Jesus. It is by him that we have any hope. So, it should be in His kingdom, power and glory that we seek to be in us. We, as God's followers, rely on Him to lead and guide us through this life here on Earth. Since He is the leader, we must remember to be the followers and yield to His will for our lives.

- a) Kingdom: We acknowledge that the Kingdom of God will reign on Earth as God said it will when Jesus returns.
- b) Power: By making this statement, we are acknowledging that all the power that we possess comes from God. It is given to us so that we may sustain in the world as Christians and continue to do His will.
- c) Glory: In the end we acknowledge that everything that we do in this life as children of God is for God's glory alone and has nothing to do with us.
- d) Forever: God says in His word that He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is the only one who can make this proclamation because He is eternal. We can only say this if we believe that God truly is unchanging.



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e) Amen: Literally means “so be it”. When you say amen at the end of a prayer we are essentially signing an agreement with God as men and women of our words. In this our yay is yay and our nay is nay.

SPENDING TIME WITH GOD

Mark 1:35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Luke 6:12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

When we become _____ with the things in our lives, we must _____ and remember to spend time with God in order to further our relationship with Him

Question for Discussion

Thinking about what we covered about prayer tonight, what strides can you make in order to deepen your relationship with God?



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Week 3 - Through the Holy Spirit

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Part 1 Engage

MEMORY VERSE

John 14:20 At that day ye shall know that I [am] in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

ENGAGE QUESTIONS

If you were talking to somebody who had never been outside before and he or she asked you to describe wind. What would you say?

You're suddenly invisible. Does this change your daily routine? If so, how?



Part 2 Develop

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

John 14:16-17 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:20 At that day ye shall know that I [am] in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 16:13-14 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew [it] unto you.

Additional references from the book of John include

- Comforter - 14:16
- Teacher - 14:26
- Guide - 16:13
- God speaking to us - 16:13
- Truth - 14:17
- Prophetic - 16:14

Question for Discussion

In what ways have you experienced the Holy Spirit as a Teacher and/or as a Comforter?



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Week 3 - Through the Holy Spirit

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DRAWING CLOSER TO GOD THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 14:3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men [to] edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

When we prophecy to each other through the Holy Spirit, we edify, exhort, and comfort.

1 Corinthians 2:6-10 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: 7. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, [even] the hidden [wisdom], which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8. Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known [it], they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10. But God hath revealed [them] unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

The Holy Spirit allows us to speak and know God's hidden wisdom through revelation.

Questions for Discussion

Give an example of God supernaturally speaking directly to you through another person.

Based on what we just covered, how does a full manifestation of the Spiritual gifts in the body of Christ bring us into a more intimate relationship with God?

CONCLUSION

Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall [your] heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Question for Discussion

Share with the group how this study will affect your personal relationship with God

Part 1 Engage

MEMORY VERSE

Job 23:12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food

ENGAGE QUESTIONS

What is the longest period of time you have gone without food and for what reason?

What is your favorite snack time treat?



Part 2 Develop

WHAT IS FASTING?

Matthew 17:14-21 And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, 15. Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water 16. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him 17. Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. 18. And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. 19. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? 20. And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. 21. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

When you _____ for God, he will _____ you.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

When we fast we are _____ God to _____ us for what is ahead.



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Week 4 - Through Fasting

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Question for Discussion

Have you ever fasted? What was the purpose and what was the result?

TYPES OF FASTS AND THEIR PURPOSE

We will discuss three types of fasts

1. Regular Fast. Only take in liquids
2. Partial Fast. Giving up specific foods and/or beverages
3. Full Fast. Eat and drink nothing

Isaiah 58:6-8 Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? 7. Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? 8. Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward.

It is in the _____ that we set ourselves apart to seek the Lord that we find His _____.

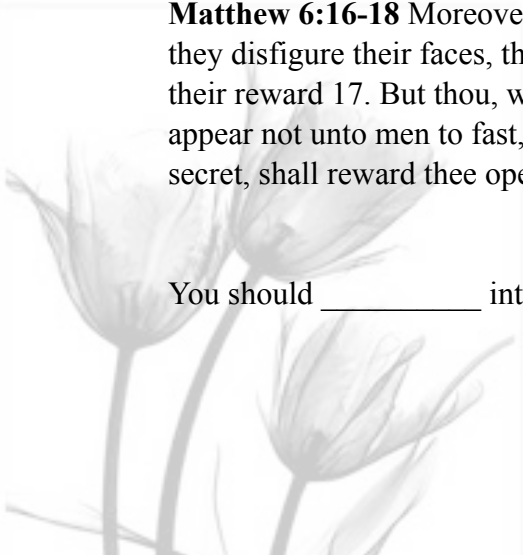
Question for Discussion

Why do you think Jesus fasted for 40 days?

THE REWARDS OF FASTING

Matthew 6:16-18 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward 17. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; 18. That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

You should _____ into a fast having repented of any _____ sins.



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Week 4 - Through Fasting

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Acts 10:1-4 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, 2. A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway. 3. He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius 4. And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

Acts 10:30 And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,

_____, _____ and _____ are all vital elements of our relationship with God.

2 Chronicles 20:2-3 Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi. 3. And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

2 Chronicles 20:14-17 Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation; 15. And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. 16. To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel. 17. Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.

2 Chronicles 20:22-25 And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. 23. For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another. 24. And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped 25. And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.

God wants us to ask him for things that are _____ than ourselves or what we think is _____.

Increasing Our Intimacy with God

Week 4 - Through Fasting

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Question for Discussion

What battle are you facing now that you need to spend time in prayer and fasting over?

How do you feel about fasting? Do you see a need for it in your life? Why or why not?



