



START HERE GOD BEFRIENDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Leader, please make these available to your group.

WOMENS CHRISTMAS EVENT

This is a great opportunity to invite someone you know from work, your neighborhood, or family member to attend an elegant evening with a tremendous talent. If you haven't heard Anna Golden please look her up on Spotify. This concert event begins with assorted appetizers and dessert. Women's Ministry is going all out to create a beautiful space to socialize and celebrate the greatest gift of the season. Jesus. ADORE HIM begins at 6pm and tickets cost \$25. And MEN - we need help with volunteers. You'll find a sign up button on the same page.





START HERE

GOD BEFRIENDS

Week 17 | The Friend Of God | Genesis 12:1-6

THE GOSPEL IS AN INVITATION TO A FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

When talking to skeptics you often hear them describe God as capricious and cruel. They invariably point to stories in the Old Testament where the children of Israel were told by God to wipe out people groups like the Canaanites or Amalekites. Of course, we understand that those societies were deeply evil, and that God was using the nation of Israel as His instrument of justice and those directives to keep His people protected from evil influence. But the larger point here is that the greater content of the Old Testament describes God as merciful, longsuffering, and gracious, even willing to be a friend to people. Think about His mercy to Nineveh through the preaching of Jonah, His kindness to Hagar when she had been cast out, His protection upon Rahab and her family when Jericho was destroyed. The reality is that the Bible doesn't have two different Gods, the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament. There is One God, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is the God who desires to be your friend!

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



PRAY (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time to share the blessings of being a friend of God and thank God in prayer.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. **According to the teaching, what does it mean to be a friend of God? Describe what that's been like in your relationship with Jesus.**

Let it be (our) first love to enter into an everlasting friendship with Christ that never shall be broken.

- Jonathon Edwards

2. Friendship with God means that He makes His purposes known to us and that we can join Him in fulfilling them.

As a group, discuss God's purposes and describe how they are being fulfilled in your life. Remember, it's going to look different for everyone. What areas can you grow in?

To be a friend of God means to intimately know Him, to know His eternal purposes, and to join Him in their fulfillment.

3. Abraham was able to give glory to God before the promise was fulfilled because He knew that He who promised was also able to perform. It's not that there weren't moments of struggle, but ultimately, he chose to believe and give God glory before the miracle came.

Is there an area in your life where you need to choose to do the same? Explain.

He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

Romans 4:20



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

John 15:15

No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.



REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, give glory to God for one promise that He has yet to fulfill in your life. Choose to live this week focusing on your friendship with God.

Next week we will be anxiously waiting to hear you describe what your fellowship and experience with God was like as you focused on friendship with Him.