



Part 2: God Pursues a Love Relationship with you

Note to Leaders: Every Link is Different. Don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group

INTRODUCTION

God created you for intimate relationship with Him. A life spent walking closely with the Lord is both exciting and rewarding. God does not want you to miss out on what He has intended for you from eternity. Sin causes us to follow our own selfish desires, but in doing so we reject God's best for our lives. So God takes the initiative to draw us closer to Himself. This love relationship, however, is not one-sided. As you accept His love and forgiveness, He wants you to know and worship Him. Most of all, He wants you to love Him. Jesus said, "The one who has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me. And the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father. I also will love him and will reveal Myself to him" (John 14:21).

If your love relationship with Him is not close, everything else related to knowing and doing the will of God will be out of focus. When you find God is not working through your life to accomplish His purposes, focus on your love relationship with Him. God may be waiting until you respond to His loving invitation to a relationship before He works through your life to bless others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you are in a relationship (dating or marriage), describe how your partner pursued you? :-)
2. Read Jeremiah 31:3. Do you feel like God is pursuing you with His love? Is it difficult for you to believe that God has loved you with an everlasting love? Why or why not?
3. Read Philippians 3:4-14.
 - a. What are some things in Paul's past that may influence his present?
 - b. How did Paul value these things (v.8)?
 - c. Why did Paul discredit his past this way? (v.8-11)?
 - d. What did Paul prepare for a future prize (v.13-14)?
 - Forget _____
 - Strain toward _____
 - Press on toward _____
 - e. Do you think you are primarily shaped by your past or your future? What do you need to forget, strain toward and press on toward?
4. God wants to have a continuing love relationship with you. Do you spend time alone regularly with God (praying, reading the Bible)? Why or why not? Share some of your challenges and some practical tips that have worked for you in keeping regular time with God? Tips: We recommend spending 15-30 minutes a day to pray and read the Bible (NIV or NLT version). You may also use a devotional guide such as: Our Daily Bread, Experiencing God Day by Day. We also have a daily Bible reading plan from The Rocks App.

MOVING FORWARD

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CHANGING YOUR MIND

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."(Ezekiel 36:26 NIV)