September 30 | Sunday

Invitation to Intimacy Read John 17:1-5, 20-26 / Psalm 42



01 | Mon - Hanging out with your hero | Read John 17:1-3

Think about what famous hero you most admire. Imagine meeting that person who looks at you straight in the eye, listens to you and then ends the short conversation by saying "I really like the way you think - would you meet me for coffee this week?" You'd be thrilled! Then imagine that develops into a friendship you never thought possible. This is what the holy, almighty but approachable, sovereign, holy God offers you. How will you respond?

02 | Tue - What kind of relationship? | Read Genesis 5:18-24 / Hebrews 11:5-6

You may not currently have a relationship with someone who 'gets' you. Or the relationships you do have are rather shallow. The most significant Person in your life has invited you into a close relationship with him. Too few people take him up on it, but Enoch was one who did. Read Enoch's story in Genesis, and in Hebrews you will find a commentary on his life. When you are gone, what will people say about how close you and God were?

03 | Wed – Who's your best friend? | Read James 2:23 / Isaiah 41:8

Abraham, the humble patriarch, was called God's friend. A title not lightly given. What do you think happened in their relationship for God to call this man 'my friend'? Think about *your* closest friend. How did that relationship grow? Did you feel affirmed by this person? Did you feel supported when you went through difficult times? Did serious conversations deepened your friendship? Could any of this apply to your relationship with *God*?

04 | Thu – Loyalty | Read Daniel 1:6-21 and 2:47-49 and 6:1-27

Daniel was a young Jew growing up in a foreign country but he consistently talked to God three times a day beside an open window in his home. Daniel also had close friendships with his fellow captive believers, living and worshipping together. Most notable were his friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. This foundation enabled Daniel to speak truth, standing his ground when having to choose between his God or the king, upon penalty of death. Who or what are you most loyal to?

05 | Fri – Modeled | Read John 15:13-15

Unlike other gods worshipped in the ancient world, the God of the Jews was invisible. But at the right time, Jesus was born and lived as a human being to show people what the living God was like, in ways they could understand. The disciples, who lived with Jesus for about two years following him everywhere, learned from him who God is. In a final conversation with them, Jesus said they were no longer servants but called them his friends. Can you imagine being one of Jesus' closest friends? Could that actually happen today?

06 | Sat – Worship | Read <u>Psalm 100:1-5 / Psalm 150:1-6</u>

The only thing better than spending quality time with the Lord by yourself is the hour you worship him along with your family in Christ each week. Something about singing, praising and praying together can give you the right focus as you prepare for a new week. King David, who was called a man after God's heart, loved to do this. He used his words, his voice, his songs as he expressed with others a great love for God. What can you do as you spend time in corporate worship this week to let God know how you feel about him?

