

Drawing Closer to God - Week 1

God has given us his Word to teach and encourage us and to reveal himself to us. To draw closer to him, we must know him and to know him more, we must spend time with him. We can do this in many ways privately. We can also draw closer together as his people to be in his presence, hear his words and voice in our hearts and then share and encourage each other. By being intentional in prioritizing spending time listening to God and hearing God through each other, we can be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live it out and share with others.

John 14:1-14 (NLT)

14 “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ²There is more than enough room in my Father’s home.^[a] If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?^[b] ³When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.”

⁵“No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is.^[c] From now on, you do know him and have seen him!”

⁸Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

⁹Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? ¹⁰Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. ¹¹Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.

¹²“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. ¹³You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!

Divide into groups of 3 (4 at the most)

Sit in silence. With your eyes closed, breathe deeply in and out a few times. Relax your body and your mind and let go of worries, frustrations and to do lists for this time set aside for God and his word.

Listen (Listen only please. Do not read.) to the scripture which will be read through 4 times.

1 Just Listen. Receive the words and Spirit of Jesus as a gift and a blessing.

2. Notice words or phrases that catch your attention.

3. What invitation is God giving you?

4. How will you enter this invitation? Meditation? Prayer? Action?

Take a few minutes to write down some of your thoughts.

Discuss them with your group, remembering to listen for understanding of the speaker and the movement of the Holy Spirit in them out of what they are sharing. Be silent for a moment after a person shares. Then speak words of encouragement to each speaker. (Ask No questions except for clarification. Give No opinions, No advice) Pray for each speaker and bless them.

Discuss what you experienced with the entire group.