



FAITH FOUNDATIONS

Theme 1: Building my friendship with God

Week 3: Intimacy with God



Learning objectives:

- Learn about what 'real intimacy' is and how we can 'do that' with God.
- This week builds upon last week with exploring a *means* to develop friendship with God...by spending time together, truly connecting with him, listening to his voice, offering Jesus our adoration and our selves. (In next week's mentor group we'll get real practical.)

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

Key elements:

- This is our third gospel story and the last one for a while. Here's another chance to lead them (and model for them) how a biblical story of people encountering Jesus can connect with their own story and speak into their own lives.
- Explore Mary & Martha's ways of serving/relating with Jesus, and Jesus' responses to them.
- Consider the implications for our own friendships with Jesus.
- For the men: Too bad Lazarus wasn't in the picture too, but keep the intimacy in the Upper Room in mind...and your own relationship of love with Jesus.

Application:

- Each person to identify 1 or 2 ways he/she could spend time with Jesus, and encourage them to take a step forward in that this week.

Interactive experience / Discussion to follow the teaching

- 1) What were your first thoughts when you heard about being intimate with God?
- 2) What's your response now after hearing the teaching?

Tips for the group discussion:

- Make your plan based upon your experience the previous 2 evenings. If they've engaged well in the previous stories, this evening may flow quite naturally; if they've been stuck in 'head mode', describe that you want to do the evening a bit differently, that you want to look at this scene from 3 different people's perspectives.
- If there are 4 or more participants, I suggest dividing them and have 1 group look at Martha's experience and the other Mary's. Give them a time limit to discuss the questions before they pull back together to share their insights with the other group. If there's 1 leader, you might travel between the groups to notice how they are discussing the questions; if there are 2 leaders, participate in a discussion but see if one of the participants would volunteer to be spokesperson.
- Give 7 minutes (10 max I would think) to look at the scene and then bring them back together to share insights. Then move on to Jesus' experience.
- Think of the Explore the Text section as the prelude to the 'real goods', the application. Make sure you leave plenty of time (30 minutes) for this. You could do it (in whole or part) in mentor groups if that will facilitate the discussion (consider group size and current level of openness.)

A look ahead:

- Next week's mentor group will 'seal' what has been taught/learned this month. It will also give us the opportunity to identify practical ways to grow their friendship with God. Keep this in mind as you make the application tonight. Encourage them to make an effort to put tonight's story into practice, to tend to their relationship with Jesus this week. Next week we'll share practical ideas for doing this - but it'll be great if they bring their experiences and ideas too.