

BIG IDEA: Going to New Places with God

SUMMARY

We are created to live an ascending life. To take next steps on our journey with Jesus that take us to new places with God. The ascending journey requires faith, commitment, and intentionality. The only thing worse than not climbing is climbing the wrong mountain. We have been so conditioned to live on the mountain of religion, that we don't believe there's a mountain of grace. But if we ask God, He will give us the grace and the wisdom to move forward and pioneer new ground in our relationship with Him.

KEY POINTS:

1. Groups Fall Semester is kicking off this week. Today is a great day to go to a new place with God and with others through Groups.

"There's a unique friendship with God that is only experienced in a group."

"It's friendship with God's people that points us to God."

Are you finding friendship with God and His people, or finding friendship with the world and its people? This semester, join a group to Discover Jesus and Find Friendship with God and with others.

2. Life is not about doing things for God, it's about doing things with God.

"The God of the universe calls you by name and says, *YOU are MY friend.*"

"We have been fully reconciled with God because of what Jesus has done."

"We are as close to God as we want to be."

"Friendship with God is not the summit, it's the beginning of the journey."

When was the last time you stopped and reflected on the truth that God calls you friend?

3. Friendship means that we spend time together, talk together, and serve each other.

"God is spending time with you; He never leaves you nor forsakes you."

"God is always talking to you; the Good Shepherd is always talking to His sheep."

"God never stops serving you."

"When we figure out God is our friend, it is easy to do what He values."

Based on this definition of friendship, do you feel like you are in friendship with God? What step can you take this week to begin finding or strengthening your friendship with God?

SIMPLE STEPS TO BEGIN FINDING FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD AND WITH OTHERS:

1. Ask God if He is inviting you to get in a Group or join a team.
2. Go to Second Step to invest in strengthening your relationship with God.
3. Express your worship because true friendship is generous with praise.

Scripture References (Psalm 25:4, Proverbs 13:20, Mark 3:13-15, John 15:15, 1 Peter 3:18, Hebrews 8:12, 2 Corinthians 5:18, Romans 5:10, Hebrews 4:16, John 15:14, Exodus 20:18-19, Matthew 7:21-23, John 14:16, Hebrews 10:24-25, Matthew 18:20, 1 Peter 5:6, Psalm 120:1, Revelation 3:20)