

I Dare You

Module: Historical Pictures of Intimacy with God

Lesson 1: In the Beginning and the End – What is intimacy and how do we have intimacy with God?

Objectives:

Students will

- learn what intimacy is
- see the intimacy God intends for us to have with Him
- begin to question how students can have that intimacy with God

Materials Needed

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Markers/pencil crayons/crayons and pens/pencils
- ☐ Whiteboard/chart paper and markers
- ☐ ½ page handout – definitions of intimacy; one per group or person

Minds On

Ask students what they think when they think of the word intimacy. (You can either ask them to think of a definition or you may supply them with a small piece of paper and have them write down a quick definition.) Assure them they will not be required to state their answer out loud, then give them a few minutes to think. After you think they all have an answer, give them the handout with definitions of intimacy. Ask them to find the answer that is closest to what they thought/wrote. Then ask them to think of a real life person/place/situation that relates to their lives and the definition. Have some volunteers share their responses. (You may wish to share your response first to get the ball rolling.) After a few people have shared, you should close off this section by saying that God intends for us to be intimate with Him in the ways described in all of the definitions.

Action

Put the students into pairs. Give them pieces of paper and markers/crayons/pencil crayons and a pen/pencil. Tell them to draw a picture or write a description of what Eden was like. Remind them that Eden was paradise; it was a perfect place. Ask them to draw/write details about what made it so perfect. Give them 10-15 minutes to do this.

After they have been given enough time to draw or describe Eden, ask students to share their drawing/description with their partner. Tell them to point out specific things that they think make Eden paradise. Give them about 6-10 minutes to do this (3-5 minutes per person).

After it is clear that both people in every group have had enough time to explain their perspective of paradise, ask them to do a popcorn exercise where people just shout out things that either they or their partner put in their paradise. As they shout them out, make notes of their responses on the white board or chart paper. After a period of answer sharing (you should gauge how well this part of the lesson is going) you can stop. You may want to talk about some of the answers that people have given. This may depend on how much time that you have. If someone has shouted out God or God's presence you should take this moment to discuss why God's presence is what made Eden paradise. If nobody has said this answer, you should bring up God's presence at this point.

Read Genesis 3:8 (Remind them that this was one of the passages from the curriculum introduction lesson, if you did that lesson).

Say something like: The fact that they were able to identify the sound of God walking in the garden proves that it is something that happened before. You cannot identify a sound you have not heard and the Bible does not say they saw Him, but that they heard Him. When He speaks to them they are not surprised because He has spoken to them before. The fact that God walked with them and talked with them in the garden is what made Eden paradise.

Have them read Genesis 3:16-24 and with a partner discuss the different consequences of Adam and Eve's actions. Ask them in their discussion to try to decide which of the consequences is the worst for human kind.

After a few minutes of discussion, ask the groups to share what the greatest consequence was. Hopefully, at least one group will say banishment from the garden or removal from God's physical presence. If not, you should bring these points up.

Say something like: Though we have been removed from the Garden of Eden, God still desires to be in an intimate relationship with us.

Read Revelation 3:20

Ask them to discuss with their partner what this means. Have each pair write down an application for this verse to our modern lives. After giving each group enough time to write their answer ask a few groups to share.

Say something like: The focus of this Bible study is learning how to be more intimate with God. It was God's intention to be physically with us in the Garden of Eden, and God gives the invitation in Revelation to get to know him better. For the next several weeks we will be looking at examples of people from the Bible who had intimate relationships with God and looking at Scripture that teaches us how to be more intimate with God in our modern lives.

Consolidate/Debrief

Before students leave, ask them to write down on a piece of paper on a scale of 1-10 (1 being least intimate, 10 being incredibly intimate) their current relationship with God. Then ask them to write down 3-5 methods they think might help them increase their intimacy with God. Ask them to keep these papers in a safe place to look at them at the end of this module.