

# Journey CHURCH

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## Session 5 Leader Guide

### OUTLINE

- I. We have the opportunity to establish an intimate friendship with God.
  - A. The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him (see Psalm 24 :11).
  - B. God does not have the same relationship with every person in the church.
  - C. There are different levels of intimacy, and that intimacy is connected to holy fear.
  
- II. Abraham was called a friend of God in the Old Testament.
  - A. Abraham proved His fear of God when he was asked to sacrifice Isaac.
  - B. Abraham obeyed immediately, even though it didn't make sense, and to completion.
  - C. God revealed a facet of His personality to Abraham that no one had known before.
  
- III. Abraham and Lot were both righteous but had different relationships with God.
  - A. Both men were "saved." They both were described as "righteous."
  - B. God spoke with Abraham about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.
  - C. God did not speak with Lot-he was only spared from destruction due to Abraham's prayer.
  - D. The difference between the two men was their level of *holy fear*.
  
- IV. Moses was also called a friend of God in the Old Testament.
  - A. Moses spoke to God face to face as a man speaks to his friend (see Exodus 33 :11).
  - B. Israel knew *about* God, but Moses knew Him personally (see Psalm 103 :7).
  - C. Moses often knew what God was going to do and helped God decide how to do it.
  
- V. Our relationship with God is also based on our level of holy fear.
  - A. Jesus did not trust people in general. He knew the frailty of humanity (see John 2:23 - 24).
  - B. Jesus said that His disciples were no longer servants but friends (see John 15:15).
  - C. God keeps many of us at the relationship level of servants to protect us.
  - D. The fear of God opens up the door to friendship and intimacy with God. -

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. People have different definitions of *friendship*. For some, friendship is a casual affair, while for others, it represents a deep commitment to the other person involved in the relationship. How would you describe the way you process the different layers of what it means to be a friend?
2. When Abraham was advanced in years, God instructed him to sacrifice Isaac—the promised son for whom he had waited twenty-years to be born. How did Abraham's response reveal that he understood what it meant to fear the Lord? What did God reveal to Abraham about His nature because of Abraham's holy fear?
3. Both Abraham and Lot were considered righteous, but each experienced a different level of intimacy with God. Abraham knew what God was going to do ahead of time and even helped God decide how to do it. Lot was as clueless of God's plans as the rest of the WORLD. What does the story of the two men reveal about the state of believers today?
4. Moses also had a close connection with God. The Bible says that he would speak with God face to face as one speaks to a friend (see Exodus 33:11). What do you think allowed Moses to have this intimate friendship with God? What are your aspirations when it comes to experiencing this same type of connection with God?
5. Jesus told His disciples, "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business" (John 15:15). This statement implies that at one time, these disciples *were* considered servants. Based on your experiences over the past year, do you feel more like a servant of God or a friend? Explain your answer.