

SERMON STUDY GUIDE  
OCTOBER 30, 2016 - PASTOR LIONEL YOUNGEnjoying Intimacy with God  
Galatians 4:1-7**THINK & SHARE** Questions to get your group talking

When you think of the word “intimacy,” what comes to mind? Does this concept appeal to you, frighten you, confuse you?

We could ask the same questions about intimacy with God. What is it about an honest, vulnerable relationship with God that you gravitate toward? What makes you nervous or concerns you?

**STUDY & DISCUSS** Questions that invite you to dig deeper into the week’s material & your own life

Read Galatians 4:1-7. Share observations or questions you have about the text with your group.

A. If Christ had said, *You have my teachings, now go and do them*, without any promise or sense of His ongoing presence, what would it look like to be a Christian?

B. That isn’t our reality though. Our reality is that we are connected to God and He has drawn near to us. To “complete the circuit,” so to speak, and let intimacy grow, we have to draw close to Him in return. What does that look like in your life?

C. Read Galatians 4:7. What would you say are some differences between a beloved child and a slave? When you start to understand your position as God’s beloved child, what does that do in your heart?

**ENJOYING INTIMACY**  
with GOD

practical pastoral help  
from Pastor Lionel

- Make worship your highest priority.
- Begin your day with praise and prayer.
- Use the Psalms as a morning and evening guide.
- Take occasional prayer walks, drives, runs, or whatever you like to do.
- Create small prayer rituals during ordinary times of the day.





## PRAY & COMMIT Questions for your breakout prayer time and challenges for the rest of your week

A. Let's take one of the practices most often recommended for enjoying intimacy with God: devotionally reading His Word. (Pastor Lionel specifically mentioned using the Psalms as a morning and evening guide.)

1. Share with your group the regularity (or non-regularity) of your devotional reading of the Bible, that is how often you turn to it not for information but to stir your heart toward God. (Remember the gospel. If the answer is "I don't," there is no condemnation.) Talk about why it's hard to do/remember or what blocks there are to you reading His Word. We're looking for the virtue of honesty in our relationships, especially with God!
2. Now discuss as a group how we can come to read the Word with a sense of desperation or to use biblical words, hungering and thirsting for God and His righteousness (Ps. 42, Matt. 5:6). We're even told that we should "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Ps. 34:8). What seems strange about the idea of hungering for God? What is it that keeps you from that kind of appetite?
3. Take a moment of silence and **without** sharing with the group, talk to God and ask Him, "Is there anything I can commit to this week concerning my time in your Word?" Ask your leader for some guidance about where to start if you're planning to take a small step in this direction. If you already have a plan and a steady intake of God's Word, pray for a receptive (hungry and thirsty) heart.
4. Close with a silent time of prayer, then have someone read Psalm 23 aloud.

B. Because of the gospel, you are forgiven and adopted into God's family. You are a son or daughter and an heir with all the privileges that God can give. That is your identity. Consider then that anything you take your identity from other than Christ is idolatry. Take some time this week to honestly confess in prayer where you are tempted to find your identity apart from Him.

## MORE Questions to challenge those interested in the themes and theology found in Galatians

There is a thread of teaching present in some churches that says Christianity is a matter of thinking positive and building up our self-image. How is the theological idea of adoption and "sonship" not only counter to this but also **more** than what is promised in this feel-good ideology?

### FIND CALVARY CHURCH SERMONS IN PRINT, AUDIO, OR VIDEO THROUGH THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES:

- @ [calvaryweb.net](http://calvaryweb.net) click on Sermons
- @ **App Store** search key: Calvary Church Valparaiso
- @ **Miscellanies blog** <http://lionelyoung.squarespace.com>
- @ **iTunes** search key: Calvary Church Sermons

© 2016 Calvary Church

For public use. No part of this document may be changed without the permission of Calvary Church.



**Calvary Church**

1325 Evans Ave, Valparaiso, IN 46383 • [www.calvaryweb.net](http://www.calvaryweb.net)