

**INTRO**

- Is there a friendship you have/had that grew stronger over time? What helped move that relationship from casual acquaintance to close friendship?

**READ**

Genesis 18:16-33

**REFLECT & RESPOND**

In Genesis 18, Abraham's bold intercession for Sodom reveals the depth of his relationship with God. His prayer was not the result of a technique or formula. It flowed from proximity. Abraham had learned to walk with God, remain in His presence, and draw near with humility and confidence.

The same invitation is extended to us. God does not desire distant acquaintances. Through Jesus, He invites us into friendship and a relationship with Himself.

**1. Walking with God**

Abraham's friendship with God was built through a continual journey of trust and relationship. Walking with God means pursuing Him daily, not merely seeking His help in moments of need, and learning to follow Him by faith rather than by sight.

*Q: How would your daily life look different if you viewed following Jesus primarily as walking with a Person rather than completing spiritual tasks*

*Q: What is one practical way you can cultivate a more consistent walk with God this week?*

**2. Standing Before God**

As Abraham remained standing before the Lord, he lingered in God's presence long enough to receive God's burden for others. Standing before God means making ourselves available to Him,

listening for His voice, and becoming people of intercession rather than self-focus.

*Q: Who/What has God placed on your heart recently?*

**3. Drawing Near to God**

Abraham boldly approached God with humility, confidence, and trust in God's character. Drawing near means moving beyond distance, self-reliance, and fear so that we can experience God's mercy, grace, and faithfulness more deeply.

*Q: What keeps you from drawing near to God?*

*Q: What area of your life needs greater surrender so that you can move closer to Him?*

**Christ-Centred Reflection & Application**

Where humanity failed, Christ succeeded. Jesus, the perfectly righteous One, took our place so that we could be brought near to God. The cross was God's answer to the problem of distance.

*Q: How does knowing that Jesus has already made a way for you to come near to God change the way you pray?*

*Q: What would it look like this week to live as someone who has been brought near through Christ?*

**PRAY**

- Thank Jesus for removing every barrier between God and us.
- Ask God to deepen your friendship and intimacy with Him.
- Intercede for people who are far from God or facing difficult circumstances.