

LESSON 4:

INTIMACY WITH JESUS

Big Idea: Jesus wants daily relationship, not distant religion.

Scripture Anchor: John 15:4–5, Philippians 3:8–10





THINK ABOUT YOUR CLOSEST FRIEND

Think about your closest friendship. You know their laugh, their quirks, the way they talk. Why? Because you spend time together.

Now imagine if you only talked to that friend once a week, or only when you needed something—would that friendship grow? Of course not.

Sadly, that's how many of us treat Jesus. We know *about* Him, but we don't really *know* Him. We talk when we're desperate, but not daily.

John 15:4–5 says: "**Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself.**" Intimacy means staying connected.

JESUS ISN'T AFTER FANS—HE'S AFTER FRIENDS

PAUL'S PRIORITY

In Philippians 3:8–10, Paul said that knowing Christ was worth more than anything else in life. Not just knowing about Him—but truly knowing Him.

THE TRUTH

Jesus doesn't just want your Sunday; He wants your every day. He's inviting you into something deeper than religion—He's inviting you into relationship.

"I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection." — Philippians 3:10

THREE KEYS TO INTIMACY WITH JESUS

1

ABIDE, DON'T STRIVE

Stay connected to the vine and watch fruit grow naturally in your life.

2

JESUS CALLS US FRIENDS

He invites you into the kind of closeness where hearts are known and secrets are shared.

3

INTIMACY FUELS TRANSFORMATION

The more time you spend with Jesus, the more you'll start to look like Him.

KEY #1: ABIDE, DON'T STRIVE



STAY CONNECTED

John 15:5 paints a picture of a vine and branches: **"If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."**

The branch doesn't stress out or hustle to produce fruit—it just stays connected to the vine. That connection is what makes fruit grow naturally.

Religion says grind harder. Jesus says **stay closer**.

📖 **Practical Step:** Abiding means making space for Him through prayer, worship, Scripture, and silence. It's less about performance, more about presence.

THE POWER OF STAYING PLUGGED IN

YOUR SPIRITUAL BATTERY

Think of a phone. It doesn't matter how good the apps are—if it's not connected to the charger, the battery dies. Staying "plugged in" to Jesus is what keeps us alive spiritually.

DAILY CONNECTION

Psalms 27:4 says, "One thing I ask... to gaze on the beauty of the Lord." Just one thing—to be with Him. That's the heart of abiding.

KEY #2: JESUS CALLS US FRIENDS

**"I NO LONGER CALL YOU SERVANTS... INSTEAD,
I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS."**

— John 15:15

This verse is stunning—Jesus doesn't just call us servants, He calls us **friends**. Friends share secrets. Friends know each other deeply. Friends walk through life together.

Think of your best friend. You don't just know facts about them—you know their heart, their dreams, their fears. Jesus invites you into that kind of closeness with Him.



HE'S KNOCKING AT THE DOOR

AN INVITATION, NOT AN INTRUSION

Revelation 3:20 says, "**I stand at the door and knock...**" Jesus doesn't force His way into your life—He waits for you to invite Him close.

Friendship is built in everyday moments—the late-night conversations, the random check-ins, the consistent presence. Intimacy with Jesus is like that. It's not once a week at church; it's all throughout your day, every day.

Jesus doesn't want fans—He wants friends.



KEY #3: INTIMACY FUELS TRANSFORMATION



PURSUE INTIMACY

Connect with Jesus through prayer and worship to know Him deeply, just like Paul's passion in Philippians 3:10.



EXPERIENCE GROWTH

The closer you walk with Jesus, the more you naturally grow and become like Him in character and spirit.



REFLECT HIS GLORY

As you behold Jesus, 2 Corinthians 3:18 tells us you are transformed, increasingly reflecting His image to the world.



Couples who've been married for decades often start sounding the same, finishing each other's sentences. Why? Intimacy transforms. The same happens when you walk with Jesus—you start to think, talk, and love like Him. The more time you spend with Jesus, the more you'll start to look like Him.



BREAKING DOWN MISCONCEPTIONS

"INTIMACY IS FOR PASTORS OR LEADERS"

Truth: Jesus calls *all* believers His friends. This invitation is for you, right now, exactly as you are.

"INTIMACY MEANS HOURS OF PRAYER I DON'T HAVE"

Truth: It's about consistency, not length. Five focused minutes daily is more powerful than two hours once a month.

"INTIMACY IS JUST EMOTIONAL HYPE"

Truth: It's about a rooted relationship that fuels genuine transformation in your character and daily life.

PRACTICAL STEPS FOR EVERYDAY INTIMACY

01

SET A "JESUS DATE"

Block out 30 minutes this week just for worship, prayer, and journaling. No agenda, just being with Him.

02

TALK ALL DAY LONG

Whisper short prayers throughout your day like you'd send texts to a friend—"Jesus, help me," "Thank You, Jesus," "I need You right now."

03

STAY CONSISTENT

Even 10 minutes daily builds intimacy more than once-in-a-while marathons. Show up regularly, and watch the relationship deepen.

 **This Week's Challenge:** Spend 30 minutes with Jesus—no phone, no distractions. Journal what He speaks to your heart. Let Him meet you in the quiet.



DON'T JUST WORK FOR JESUS—WALK WITH JESUS

WHEN YOU ABIDE IN HIM

Your life produces fruit naturally—love, joy, peace, and purpose flow from connection, not effort.

WHEN YOU WALK AS HIS FRIEND

Your heart feels secure—you're known, loved, and never alone in any moment of your journey.

WHEN YOU PURSUE INTIMACY

Your life looks like His—transformed by His presence, reflecting His character to the world around you.

Group Declaration: "Jesus, I want to know You more. I choose to abide in You, walk with You daily, and build intimacy with You. Transform my heart as I draw near to Yours."