

Key References:

James 4:8 (ESV)

⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Jeremiah 29:12-14 (ESV)

¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, declares the LORD, [...]

"We need to learn the art of waiting on God. Where we hear the whispers of God like Elijah did. We need to learn to hear the whispers of God in the midst of turmoil, we need to still ourselves. Step out of situations and come into His presence." – **Mike**

Isaiah 2:3 (ESV)

 3 [...] "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." [...]

Isaiah 55:8–9 (ESV)

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NIV)

⁹ For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. [...]

1 – BEING FULLY PRESENT WITH GOD

Mike shared a common example of a couple eating at a restaurant, but instead of talking to one another they are occupied on their phones. Why do couples, or even friends fall into this pattern? What's the cause? Does Mike's example mirror aspects of our relationship with God? How often do you find yourself present in a religious activity without really being present with God?

Does your relationship with God feel like a "casual" or long-distance relationship? Why can it feel that way?

2 - SEEKING GOD'S FACE

Read Jeremiah 33:3, Jeremiah 29:12-13 & James 4:8. How much of a sure-thing is it that God will come close to us when we seek him? How do you know if you're seeking God with your "whole heart"?

Was there a time when God drew close to you in a significant time of seeking Him? What do you think the great and unsearchable things are in Jeremiah 33:2-3? Has God revealed things to you this way?

Read Mike's quote. What do you do and where do you go to hear God speak? What does it mean to seek God's face?

3 - KNOWING HIS WILL & HIS WAYS

Why is it easier to know the will of God than to know the specific ways of God? Read Isaiah 2:3 & 55:8-9. How do you think God teaches us his ways? What has He taught you recently?

4 - KNOWING WHEN WE NEED CORRECTION

Mike continued on the theme of wells, painting a picture of a well drying up due to small grains of sand. Those small grains of sand can be bitterness, unforgiveness, undealt with sin, etc... Is there a grain of sand in your life blocking up your well? What are they?

What hope do you find through 2 Chronicles 16:9? How can we keep our hearts committed to Him?

Mikes pointed out the Church of Laodicea (Revelation 3:15-21) and of Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-5). What can we learn from the feedback each church received in the way we are to seek God today?