

First Mount Zion Baptist Church

*Wednesday Bible Study*

*February 12, 2025*

*Developing Intimacy with God*

**Presenter: Rev. Tarra Taylor**

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**Objective:** Continuing on the idea of worship as one of the elements of the four-step strategy. The focus this week is on being intimate with God and worship that fosters intimacy, and intimacy that results in us being fully devoted followers. We will explore: **God Desires Communion, Communion Through Meditation, and Communion Through Worship.** For the most part, this is more personal than communal, more individual than corporate. Yet we do want to touch on the impact of corporate worship on God's intimacy with the congregation.

**I. God Desires Communion**

1. With whom do you have intimate relationships?

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2. What defines a relationship as intimate? Where do we find them in the scriptures (3-4 characteristics/elements )

a. Genesis 3: 8-9 \_\_\_\_\_

b. 1 Kings 6:11-13 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Matthew 1: 23 \_\_\_\_\_

d. Ephesians 2: 19-22 \_\_\_\_\_

3. How would the aspects of an intimate relationship promote your being a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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**II. Communion Through Meditation**

4. Looking at Psalm 4, what aspects of intimacy do you find? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. How does meditating on God's word foster intimacy with God?:

a. Psalm 5: 1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Psalm 46:10 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Psalm 49:3 \_\_\_\_\_

6. What are the challenges or hinderances to intimacy?

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7. What are the manifestations of intimacy with God- really knowing God?

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8. What can we do to increase our intimacy with God?

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### III. Communion Through Worship

9. What about communal intimacy- the relationship between God and FMZ. What is necessary to foster that communal intimacy?

a. Matthew 18:20 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Philippians 4:6 \_\_\_\_\_

c. 1 Corin 10:16-17; 11:23-29 \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Questions for further Reflection:**

*What is the impact of stronger personal and corporate intimacy with God on the mission of the FMZ congregation?*

*What is the impact of a lack of corporate intimacy on your personal intimacy and vice versa?*

**Conclusion-** Developing intimacy with God is an ongoing, lifelong pursuit. We want to foster personal and corporate intimacy with God; they are mutually reinforcing and essential to the four-step strategy.

***“There is great joy and rich blessings in “knowing God” and sharing that intimate relationship with Him. Communal worship lifts us to a higher spiritual plane, where we (as the body of Christ) come in contact with the Lord himself.”***