

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

STRENGTHENING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Until He Comes | 1 Thessalonians — Week 12

1 Thessalonians 5:16-28

**ICEBREAKER:** What are your best or worst childhood memories of going to a zoo or circus?

**OVERVIEW:** The quality of your life is entirely dependent upon the quality of your relationship with God. God created you to know Him. He wants you to be close to Him. He sent His only Son to be sacrificed so that we could be reconciled to Him. But if you want a strong relationship with God, you must live by certain principles. People who are close to God follow these principles; people who are far from God violate these principles. In this discussion we are going deeper with how to strengthen our relationship with God.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. On a scale of 1-10 (one being very weak, and ten being very strong), how strong is your relationship with God right now? Explain.
3. Why is it important to you to have a strong relationship with God?
4. Is it possible to be a Christian and yet have a weak relationship with God? Explain.

5. Read James 4:4-10.
  - a. This passage contains a number of principles for developing a strong relationship with God. Verse 4 says to avoid friendship with the world. How can we apply this to our lives?
  - b. What are the two commands found in verse 7? What does it mean to submit to God? What does it mean to resist the devil?
  - c. Verse 8 says to draw near to God. What is the promise related to this command? How can we draw near to God?
  - d. Why does verse 9 tell us to be miserable and mourn and weep?
  - e. Verses 6 and 10 repeat the same principle – humility. Why is humility essential for a strong relationship with God?
6. Can you remember the four ways to strengthen your relationship with God from Sunday's sermon?
7. Do you need to develop a stronger prayer life? Explain.

**The Last Word:** You have as much of God as you want.

