ABOVE

Above Average - If You, Then I - March 1

Introduction

Relationship results from a growing intimacy cultivated by rigorously honest communication. At each relational interaction where honesty is presented, tested, and proven true; trust births a new and greater intimacy. As we abide in a relationship with God, He invites us over and over again into a new and greater intimacy by offering opportunities of "If you will, then I will".

Discussion Questions

- 1. Have you ever tried to cut a deal with God by saying something like: "God if You will do ____(fill in blank) ____, then I promise I will do ____(fill in blank) ____"? If you have, please share with this group what it was and why you felt like you needed to cut a deal with God. What was the outcome?
- 2. What do you think it means to communicate with God and what has been your experience in hearing from God?
- 3. In the message Jon said: "Relationship results from a growing intimacy cultivated by rigorously honest communication." Share with this group the name of someone you have experienced this kind of genuine relationship with. How did you reach a place of trust to be rigorously honest with each other?
- 4. Read <u>John 10:1-5</u> and <u>27</u>. What does Jesus say He uses to communicate with us? What do you think Jesus means by this?
- 5. If communication is required for relationship and relationship is required for us to remain one with God; what should we be focusing on first when it comes to getting to know God?
- 6. In the message Jon said: "As we abide in a relationship with God, He invites us over and over again into a new and greater intimacy by offering opportunities of "If we will, then He will". Look up the following scriptures (1 John 1:9, Proverbs 3:5&6, John 15:7). Fill in the blanks for each verse

•	"If you will		then I	will		" -	Gο	d
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Moving Forward

At each relational interaction where honesty is presented, tested, and proven true; trust births a new and greater intimacy. This new and greater intimacy is what builds and strengthens a relationship. God is always presenting us with truth and inviting us to test and discover how true He is. He invites us over and over again into a new and greater intimacy by offering opportunities of "If we will, then He will". Every time we follow Him in these opportunities, He never fails to keep His end of the deal. And every time we discover He has kept His end of the deal, we learn to trust Him more and His voice begins to become more and more recognizable.

Take time each day to communicate with God by sharing your feeling and thoughts and then listening to Him, through His word, share His feelings and thoughts. When we do this and we follow Him into the opportunities He communicates to us, we will remain in Him and He will remain in us. As we remain in God, He promises to produce in us a life that is way above average. Decide to remain in Him by communicating and growing in a relationship with Him. Use bible search tools like BlueLetterBible.org or BibleStudyTools.com to discover what God is saying to you right now in your life. Listen for Him and as He directs your mind through different issues you are facing or personal interest you may have, simply use the search tool on a bible study web site to see what God has to say about it and then share your feelings and thoughts with Him so He can then share His feelings and thoughts to you. Keep a journal of what God says to you. Abide in Him and He will in you.

Changing Your Mind - Commit this to memory

"My sheep <u>hear</u> my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." - Jesus <u>John 10:27</u> (ESV)