

Group Videos/ Notes: Unbroken Fellowship with the Father.

Week 1

THEME FOR THE WEEK:

We are part of God's design, and everything began with Him.

INTRODUCTION:

Today, we are beginning a series that we believe will challenge the very essence of being human. As we live life, there are many "ups and downs," and we try to make real sense of our lives through it all. In this series, we will discuss aspects of God's revelation to humanity that form the core of living a life of fulfillment and impact.

KEY SCRIPTURE: John 1

QUESTION TO ANSWER IN THIS SESSION:

How can I truly experience fulfillment in my life?

DISCUSSION:

Fulfillment begins with God.

What is it all about?

John 1:1-5; 18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

* John is not sharing just a piece of poetry with us—he is sharing theology and declaring to us the "fellowship" that exists within the Godhead: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

* The good news for us is that God did not intend for this to be a private experience for the Godhead; **He now invites us to be a part of it as well.**

* Therefore, it's important to say that the reason for our relationship with God is not just to go to heaven one day, but to live in a restored intimate relationship with the Father.

We are designed for "fellowship."

* This is who we ultimately are—we are relational beings.

John 1:4-5

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

* Anything designed for a specific purpose will experience hurt and damage when it is used outside of that created purpose.

* Anything outside our design will bring hurt and frustration into our lives.

John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

* Here we see that God Himself initiated the intimate relationship between Himself and humanity.

* He took the first step.

* Sin, which prevented humanity from having an intimate relationship with Him, has been completely dealt with.

* There is now no guilt, shame, or condemnation.

John 1:10-11

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

"God became what we are - so we could become what He is. He didn't wait for us to find Him. He found us. And He's still doing that today."

John 1:12

Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

* Here lies our solution.

* The starting point **for fulfillment in life** is the fact that we have accepted Him as our Savior—this is how I begin this intimate relationship with Him.

* I respond to His invitation to grow in an intimate relationship with Him.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

* **In your group:** Talk about the day you made a clear, conscious choice for God, accepted Him, and invited Him into your life.

* How did it change your life?

* How do you understand the concept that God desires to be in an intimate relationship with you?

* Discuss the joys you have experienced in your intimate relationship with God and how it has brought fulfillment into your life.

PRAY TOGETHER:

* Turn to two or three people in the group and thank Jesus for choosing to leave heaven and come to earth so that we could experience "fellowship" with Him.

* **For you personally:** Share your joys but also your frustrations with your walk with God – Will you trust Him again for a life of fulfillment regardless of what the current circumstances may look like?