



## Redeemed Intimacy Jimmy Evans

**Focus** When Adam and Eve sinned, they lost their intimacy with God. When we are in heaven, our intimacy and relationship with God will be completely restored.

**Fun** Where is the most interesting place you've ever traveled?

**Review** Key Scriptures: John 10:11–15; 1 John 2:15–17

**1. The most important thing Adam and Eve lost when they sinned was their intimate relationship with God.**

Before sin, Adam and Eve had an intimate relationship with God. 1 Corinthians 13:12 says, “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face.” When we get to heaven we will no longer have an invisible relationship with Jesus—it will be face-to-face. We will no longer have any ignorance of who Jesus is. We will know Him as well as He knows us right now. We will also have a more intimate relationship with one another. In heaven, we will know God perfectly and be married to Jesus.

**2. God didn't give Adam and Eve complete knowledge because He wanted to teach them through relationship.**

Adam and Eve had a very limited amount of knowledge, and it was one of the reasons they gave up their relationship with God for a piece of fruit. God didn't give them complete knowledge; instead He gave them Himself. The purpose of His presence was so they could get to know Him and learn everything from Him. God loves relating and being a parent. He doesn't want to simply give us knowledge or relationship, He loves the process and the journey. Adam and Eve had the all-knowing God of the universe living with them. He created us to be completely dependent upon Him.

### 3. God gave us a free will, so we could choose to love Him.

God created us for relationship because He is a relational God. If there were no choice and no free will, we wouldn't be able to fully love and choose God. God did not create everything and just step back to watch it all unfold; neither did He create one million sins to make it impossible to choose Him. God created a paradise and gave us free will to choose relationship with Him. He also knew we would sin so He paid the penalty for our rebellion and redeemed us back into relationship with Him.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** During the weekend message, ask the Holy Spirit to show you specific aspects of the message He wants you to discuss in your group. God may put something on your heart that will minister directly to someone coming to your group this week. The Bible says the Holy Spirit will reveal things to us, so ask Him to show you what to focus on each week.

#### Discuss

1. Read Revelation 21:2–7. What aspect of heaven do you look forward to the most?
2. God did not give Adam and Eve full knowledge because He wanted them to learn from Him. What has God taught you as you've walked with Him? How did that learning process deepen your walk with Him?
3. Why do you think God loves the process and journey so much? How can we be that same way in our relationships with others?
4. Read John 10:11–15. How is God like a shepherd? What are some specific ways He has been a shepherd to you?
5. Read 1 John 2:15–17. What are some things the world tries to offer us to replace God?

6. How does creating us with a free will allow us to truly love God? Would it be possible to love without a free will? What does this show you about the nature of God?

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:

- In heaven, our intimacy with God will be restored.
- God didn't give us full knowledge because He wants us to walk through the learning process in relationship to Him.
- God gave us a free will, so we could choose to love Him.

**Prayer** Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your desire to have a loving, intimate relationship with us. Help us to be steadfast in our journey of walking through life together with You. Thank You for giving us a free will so we could choose to love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\***

This is the time of year to begin praying and asking God for fresh vision for your group. Ask God to show you if He wants to redirect the focus of your group. Or ask Him to show you if there are other types of people He wants you to include and invite to your group. This is also the time to ask God for direction about the specifics and logistics of your group. As you pray and wait on the Lord, He will give you fresh vision for this new semester of small groups.