

Hangouts – Come Close to God

Week of 5/31/26

Ice Breaker Question

Who is someone you feel closest to in your life, and what helped build that closeness?

What are some things that can create distance in a relationship?

Main Idea Questions

1. Pastor said:

“The answer is not more religion. The answer is Coming Close to God.”

What do you think the difference is between being religious and being close to God?

Have you ever experienced one without the other?

2. “Come close to God, and God will come close to you.”

What are some practical ways we can intentionally draw closer to God in our everyday lives?

What tends to pull us away from Him?

3. Sunday’s Sermon identified several things James says create distance between us and God:

- Pride
- Judging others
- Self-reliance
- Living for temporary things

Which one do you think is the greatest struggle for people today? Why?

Scripture Question #1

Read James 4:6–10

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

Why do you think humility is so important in our relationship with God?

What does humility look like practically?

Scripture Question #2

Read James 4:11–12

James warns against judging others.

Why is it often easier to judge people than to show mercy?

How does a judgmental attitude affect our relationship with both God and others?

Scripture Question #3

Read James 4:13–16

James confronts people who make plans without considering God.

What is the difference between making plans and living independently from God?

How can we keep God at the center of our decisions and future plans?

Something Said in the Sermon

Pastor said:

“You cannot stay close to the God of mercy while living with a heart full of judgment.”

What stood out to you about that statement?

How can we cultivate a heart of mercy instead of criticism?

Living It Out This Week

This week, intentionally make room to draw near to God.

Challenge:

Set aside at least **15 minutes each day** for:

- Prayer
- Worship
- Reading Scripture
- Listening to God

Then ask:

“Lord, is there anything creating distance between You and me?”

Write down whatever God reveals and surrender it to Him.

Bonus Challenge:

Choose one area where you have been relying on yourself and intentionally invite God into it this week.

Prayer Topic

- A deeper hunger for God
- Humility and surrender
- Freedom from pride and self-reliance
- A heart full of mercy
- Closeness and intimacy with God
- Courage to let go of anything creating distance from Him