**Witham United Reformed Church**

**Bible Study for week commencing Monday 28th June 2021**

**Theme; ‘Intimacy’**

I think this theme may be difficult for many of us to discuss, so let us be up front with that from the word go. Looking up the definition of the word is interesting as it defines intimacy in a committed relationship, in terms of sexual passion. This is clearly not something that we would discuss openly in a group, but it is worth having in the back of our minds as we continue with the study.

I would like us to tackle the subject of ‘Intimacy with God’, rather than with others, though the one has an effect on the other. Can we be intimate with an unseen, all powerful, omnipotent God? What does it mean to be intimate with God? How does it manifest itself in practical ways?

I would like to encourage people to offer their own thoughts and feelings into this discussion. We are all so very different, so everyone’s input will be valid and important. Be prepared to be brave and honest, and I’m sure that you will be a source of blessing to the whole group.

**Read; Psalm 63 vs 1-7**

**John 15 vs 9-17**

**Pray for God to speak to us through his Word**

1/ When are the times that the Psalmist suggests he is close to God?

(V1 and 6). Does this ring any bells with you?

2/ V1 – where else would you expect to find sentiments like these?

3/ What does he mean when he says he has looked for God in the sanctuary?

(V2)

4/ V3 brings in the area of ‘praise’ to intimacy with God. How do you feel when you praise God, especially in the Church with many others?

5/ V4 Why do you think people might raise their hands during worship?

6/ V5 and 7. Joy and intimacy seem to go together. Discuss.

(Consider John 15 v 11)

7/ Have you tried meditating on God during the night? V 6

8/ John 15 9-17 talks about love, surely the key to intimacy. Where does real love come from? If we are intimate with God, does this help us to be closer to others?

9/ What does it mean to be a ‘friend’ of God V 15

**Close in prayer**