

## :: summary

Every human person experiences many longings, one of which is to be known and loved deeply for the human being we are. The story of the announcement of the birth of Christ helps us to know that God knows. God knows you, not just that you exist, but He truly knows you and He is always near. God knows and cares about what is going on in your life and God knows about the world around you and is at work in it.

Luke 1:13 “But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, *Zechariah*; your prayer has been heard. Your wife *Elizabeth* will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.”

Luke 1:30 But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, *Mary*; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

Luke 1:34 “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

Luke 1:35 The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even *Elizabeth* your *relative* is going to *have a child in her old age*, and *she who was said to be unable to conceive* is in *her sixth month*.”

## :: explore and discuss it

Apart from your family, is there a person in your life (now or in your past) who really knows you?

Read the Luke passages above paying attention to the italicized details.

What do these Scripture texts and details tell you about God?

Intimacy is what we call the experience of really knowing and being known by another person, or by God. In the message, Pastor Mike said that in the highest sense, “Intimacy is not knowledge of God. Intimacy is not doing for God. Intimacy is not asking for things from God. *Intimacy is relationship with God for who he is.*”

Describe what it means to have relationship with God *for who he is*. How does relating to God for who he is look like in your life?

## :: make it personal

Read Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 9:1, Psalm 139:7-10.

Discuss how each of the pathways of *trust*, *gratitude*, and the *nearness of God* affect your intimacy with God?

Read John 10:14-15, 27-28.

What personally stands out to you in these declarations of Jesus?

The Bible has other names for you: *Son*, *Daughter*, *Beloved*, *Holy One*, *Saint*, *Redeemed*, *Victorious*, *Overcomer*, *Child of God*, *My Child*. Which one of these (or another name found in the Bible) would you choose to describe yourself?

## :: pray it

Close your time in prayer asking that God will grow you closer to him through trust, gratitude and nearness.

Rejoice that you are fully known and loved by God. In this season, you are encouraged to make room for greater intimacy with him.

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