

*will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

**6. Faithful to His Promises** – Genesis 18:1-15 (James 2:21-23)

The world laughs at God and even more-so at the Christian claims of His promises.... Here even Abraham's wife Sarah laughs.... But **God is faithful to ALL His promises!**

**Series Programme:**

24<sup>th</sup> July: 1. *Longing for Intimacy* – Psalm 63

31<sup>st</sup> July: 2. *I will be with you* – Joshua 1:1-9

7<sup>th</sup> August: 3. *You are my "Friends"* – John 15:9-15

14<sup>th</sup> August: 4. *Faithful in Trials* – Lamentations 3:1-26

21<sup>st</sup> August: 5. *Faithful in Temptation* - 1Corinthians 10:1-13

28<sup>th</sup> August: 6. *Faithful to His Promises* – Genesis 18:1-15

*"One big difference between our current culture and that of over a century ago is that the Victorians saw life in terms of roles, while we see it in terms of relationships. Real life, we say, is a matter of relationships, for roles minimise personal involvement while relationships maximise it." JI Packer*

There is more Christian wisdom in that statement than we may at first realise so let's unpack it together as we set about:

***Building Intimacy with God***



## Summer Series 2016

### ***"Building Intimacy with God"***

#### **Introduction to the Series**

One of the great weaknesses I have encountered repeatedly in my time in ministry is the lack in many Christians to **'Know God'** as He is.

This is caused by a variety of reasons but essentially not engaging properly with the revealed **'God of the Bible'** in terms of knowledge, understanding and application.

We all have experience of **building relationship** in different areas of life: with our partner, our friends, our family, in the work place; all require [varying] levels of intimacy, established on trust, experience and understanding. Yet when it comes to God [our most important relationship] we too often settle for

a **'basic level'** of intimacy and as a consequence deny ourselves the fullness of that relationship.

Yet every Christian should desire a deeper, more personal relationship with God that enables us not only to know Him better but to feel His presence and experience His power in our lives day-by-day, in the good-times and the bad.

This was the prayer of Jesus for us in [John 17:3](#) *And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*

This short series of six messages will be a refresher for some yet an encourager for all in taking our start point as **"Building Intimacy with God"** – Taking that relationship with our Creator and Redeemer God, to a deeper and stronger level of understanding and thus more meaningful application.....

### Series Outline:

#### 1. Longing for Intimacy – [Psalm 63](#)

David knew what it was to walk closely with God and the consequences when he didn't; here in the wilderness of Judah we share his reflections as he **longs for God** so intensely he describes it as **thirsting**.

#### 2. I will be with you – [Joshua 1:1-9](#)

Soldiers use an expression in combat; **'I've got your back'**, it means that as you move your back is covered by a comrade with rifle at the ready. As Christians God has always **'got our back'** and Joshua is reminded of that as he stands on the verge of crossing into Canaan and God tells him; **'I will be with you'**.

#### 3. You are my "Friends" – [John 15:9-15](#)

Most people can't resist **'name dropping'** and we often get assurance from **'friends in high places'** well they don't come any higher than this: **Jesus calls me His friend!**

#### 4. Faithful in Trials – [Lamentations 3:1-26](#)

We would all feel we have **known trials of various kinds** but few if any would compete with those endured by Jeremiah! Learn as he responds to his trials with those powerful words: **"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."**

#### 5. Faithful in Temptation - [1Corinthians 10:1-13](#)

We all think we can stand firm and faithful..... until we fall! Here Paul issues a timely warning but also provides a blessed assurance: **Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he**