

SACRED PATHWAYS – Wk. 3

How Does God Use You?

Opening Thought

Throughout this series, we've explored nine different ways people may draw near to God. The goal is not to put ourselves—or anyone else—in a box, but to recognize that God has uniquely created us. As we conclude, we turn the question from **“How do I connect with God?”** to **“How does God want to use me?”**



“Come close to Me—and then let Me send you out in love.”

Scripture

2 Samuel 6:12–15 — David celebrates before the Lord

Luke 2:43–47 — Jesus listens, asks questions, and grows in understanding

Luke 10:38–42 — Mary sits at Jesus’ feet while Martha serves

Key Scripture:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” — Deuteronomy 6:5

1. The Enthusiast — Loving God Through Mystery & Celebration

Enthusiasts remind the rest of us that **God is still alive, God is still moving, and we have reasons to rejoice.** Their gift is joy, expectation, faith, and a willingness to believe God can work in ways we cannot fully explain.

Discuss:

- What aspects of celebration, mystery, or expectancy help you connect with God?
- How can enthusiasm and faith become unhealthy if we begin chasing experiences rather than God?
- How might an enthusiast’s gift of joy or faith become a blessing to someone else?

Consider:

Where might God be inviting you to celebrate His goodness more intentionally?

2. The Intellectual — Loving God With the Mind

For the intellectual, understanding can lead to worship. Learning more about God, Scripture, and His creation can awaken greater affection and awe. But knowledge is never intended to end with knowledge. **God gives understanding so that we can serve, not exalt ourselves.**

Discuss:

- When has learning something new about God deepened your love for Him?

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- What is the difference between seeking truth and loving controversy?
- Where might you be tempted to use what you know to feel superior rather than to serve?
- How could your knowledge, skills, or curiosity help someone else?

Consider:

What is one question about God or Scripture you could spend time exploring—not simply to know more, but to become more faithful?

3. The Contemplative — Loving God Through Adoration

The contemplative reminds us that Christianity isn't simply about what we **do for God**, but about loving and enjoying God's presence. Mary sitting at Jesus' feet reminds us that there is a place for simply being with Him.

At the same time, contemplation can become unhealthy when our relationship with God turns inward and disconnected from others.

Discuss:

- What makes it difficult for you to simply be still and present with God?
- How is loving God different from simply doing things for God?
- Why is it important that our intimacy with God eventually affects how we relate to other people?
- What might it look like for you to create intentional space to adore and listen to God?

Practice:

Try sitting quietly before God for 10 minutes this week without trying to accomplish anything.

Bringing It All Together

The purpose of Sacred Pathways isn't to discover which box we belong in. **It's to help us draw near to God.**

And drawing near to God should change how we live.

The sermon gives us five movements:

1. **Don't put yourself—or anyone else—in a box.**
2. **Let your pathway help you draw near to God.**
3. **Let God stretch you beyond your pathway.**
4. **Let what God does in you become something God does through you.**
5. **Love God. Love people. Serve where God has placed you.**

Discuss

- Which of these five movements is easiest for you? Which is most challenging?
- Have you ever used your personality or preferences as an excuse to avoid something God was asking you to do?
- Who is someone whose way of connecting with God is different from yours?
- How might their “different” actually teach you something about God?

- What is one gift God has given you that could be used to serve someone else this week?
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A Final Challenge

Look around your church, your family, your workplace, and your community.

There are people who experience God differently than you do. Some need silence when you need singing. Some want to study when you're ready to feel. Some want to act when you're ready to pray. Some want to serve when you're ready to sit.

That's not a problem to fix. That's the body of Christ.

Personal Reflection

Complete these sentences:

I think God may have uniquely wired me to...

One way I naturally connect with God is...

One way God may be asking me to stretch beyond my preferences is...

One person or group I could use my gifts to serve is...

This week, I will love God by...

Prayer

God, thank You for creating each of us uniquely. Help us not to use our differences to divide us, but to help us understand one another and see more of You. Teach us to draw near to You in ways that deepen our love for You. And then take what You are doing in us and use it to love, serve, encourage, and bless the people around us. Help us to become the people You are calling us to be. Amen.