

## Flock Group Discussion Guide

April 6, 2003

*Pastor Rich Vincent delivered a message entitled “Original Intimacy” from Genesis 1-*

3. In his introduction he recited a much loved line from a recent movie. The line strikes a common chord found in every human heart—the cry to love and to be loved by others—the yearning of all men and women to know another intimately and to be known by another in the same way. This desire for intimacy is God-given because He created man to have a loving personal relationship with Himself and with other people.

The following discussion guide is designed to draw out the hearts of those wishing to converse and apply the truth of the message to their hearts and lives.

1. In the beginning of the message, Pastor Vincent stated that there is a common misunderstanding in our culture about where intimacy is to be found. What is that common misunderstanding? In what relationships or in what ways do you look for intimacy in your life?
2. It was also said that though we were originally created for intimacy, there is in our hearts a fear of being known and a fear of knowing another fully. Why is that in the basic biblical sense? Practically speaking, how does that fear manifest itself in your most intimate relationships?
3. In order to truly grow in intimacy with another person, we must first realize that both we and they are created in the image of God. The four aspects of image-bearing that were mentioned in the sermon were: We are created 1. to be Unique, 2. to Reflect, 3. to Relate, 4. to Represent / Rule
  - a. What makes a person a more unique display of glory than the animal kingdom, a picturesque sunrise, a mountain landscape, etc.?
  - b. In what ways is our reflection of God dependent upon God? How is this similar to a mirror’s reflection being dependent upon an image?
  - c. Compare Genesis 1:22 and 1:28. What is different about the blessing to sea creatures versus the blessing given to man? What does this say about God’s desire to relate?
  - d. How do you represent God by ruling over creation without using it simply for personal gain?
4. Since sin has marred God’s creational purposes for intimacy with Him and other people, how do we regain what has been ruined relationally?
5. In what ways are all humans absolutely dependent upon the Triune model of Father, Son, and Spirit for true relational intimacy with other people?