

## **Making Contact With God: Week 2**

**Your own experiences.** Think of your own experiences and where God has had you as His representative, His ambassador as scriptures put it. What are ways you saw God taking His chances on you way to risky?

[Pairs (not spouses). Five minutes each, total 10 minutes]

### **Understanding Gods Risk.**

- On page 64-65 read aloud the quote from William Irwin Thompson (one person could read it or you could split it up) How does this potential image of the thoughts of God impact you? In what ways do you contradict yourself – wanting freedom, yet getting mad at God when you get some negative results from it? Give specific examples.
- Have you ever taken time to meditate on how the fall of mankind made God feel? Go around the group in a short prayer, 1-2 sentences max, praying with your eyes open, finish this statement, “God I can only imagine that when humans chose what is dysfunctional, bringing evil into the world, it made you feel..”

[Fours. 10 minutes.]

### **God the Parent, Unfiltered Sunlight and One Shining Moment**

- Think of the most rebellious thing you ever did to your parent(s). Don’t take the time to tell the story, instead, make statements of empathy of what it must have felt like for them. (Even if you had a bad parent – you probably can think of things you did that they did not deserve)
- God wants us to grow in faith. He wants our relationship with Him to based on who He is, not just what we can do for him. Can you think of examples of parents who had the policy to give the child what the child believed he/she needed? How did it work out? How did it work out for Solomon? (82-85) Faith is trust. Do you think God is more interested in being a vending machine of stuff or a deep relationship between parent and child? Share an example of where you needed to trust God.
- “God’s problem is not that God is not able to do certain things. God’s problem is that God loves. Love complicates the life of God ad it complicate every life” Hall (75) What does this quote mean to you?

[Fours. 10 minutes.]

### **Wounded Lover and Too Good to be True**

- Have you had an experience like Jonah, Hosea or one of the other prophets where God’s patience for the “unrighteous” seemed unfair or frustrating?
- Someone read aloud the last paragraph on page 100
- “God weeps with us so that one day we may laugh with Him” 104 – what does that quote mean to you?

[Threes (not spouses). 15 minutes]

Next week: chapters 13–17, “Drawing Closer: The Son.”