

## **Session 1 The character and nature of God**

Course: Hearing the Father's Voice

### **Setting the Scene**

Throughout the Bible, God longs for an encounter with those He has created and redeemed. The initiative and energy for this is His. All we need to do, to encounter Him, is to keep looking in the right places.

#### **A. Introductions**

- ◆ We don't need an education, a degree of maturity, or a particular cultural background, to hear our Heavenly Father.

#### **Exercise 1: Chat in twos or threes, & feed back:**

- ◆ 'What are your expectations and hopes for this course?'

#### **B. The nature of God**

##### **Who is God?**

- ◆ Rom 8:15-17 He is our kind, adopted father, our 'Daddy'.

##### **How does our relationship work?**

- ◆ John 14:23 The intimate picture of the relationship with God available to any follower of Jesus.

#### **Exercise 2: What do you think He might say? How might he 'say' something?**

## C. Encountering God

- ◆ Ex 33:11 **God's 'presence'** in the Bible is often a translation of the Hebrew word for 'face'.
- ◆ **'Hearing' God** can cover a vast range of experiences of receiving communication from Him.
- ◆ Ez 1:28 In **worship** we encounter God, but an encounter with God fills our hearts with an attitude of worship.
- ◆ Ps 42:7 **God speaks** to deep parts of us.
- ◆ Ex 20:18 **Intimacy with God** is linked with trust.

**Exercise 3: Jot down & share ideas on God's character.**