1. **Introduction:**
   1. PRAY
   2. Recap Steps 1-10. Steps 1-9 = dealing with sin to make peace with God & Others—removing barriers to intimacy with God. Step 10, live these steps daily
   3. **If the steps stopped here, freedom in Christ would be a sham.** If we only focus on not sinning and taking care of things that get in the way of our relationship with God but never embrace, enjoy and grow in the relationship—we’ve missed the whole point.
   4. Analogy: Marrying the spouse of your dreams (perfect spouse, never hurt you or reject you, supply all of your needs)—but never taking time to date, talk, enjoy the freedom, pleasure and wonder of a marriage made in heaven.
2. **God created us for relationships.** First Himself, then others.
   1. Steps 1-10 are to prepare you to experience Step 11-eternal life today
   2. **Step 11, Intimacy**: *We seek to deepen our relationship with God daily and depend on his power to do his will.*
   3. **Foundation 11: John 17:3**, *“And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”*
   4. Word for “knowing” here is not “having information about something,” but rather to know something intimately (personally, like a husband and wife)—daily communal relationship. It is in “knowing” God that we experience eternal life!
   5. God is eternal. Eternal life is not just something for the future but something I can experience today.
   6. God desires your heart-your affections. Ecc 3:11, “He as put eternity into man’s heart.” Eternal longings can only be satisfied when our affections are fulfilled by something eternal—the love of God.
3. **Realization: 4 years into recovery**
   1. Sober, but unsatisfied. Trying hard. Battling to remain obedient. Something missing.
   2. C.S. Lewis quote,   
      *“Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”*
   3. I was focused on not sinning. I needed to be focus on lover of my soul and find eternal joy in Him.
   4. Psalm 16:11, “*You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”*
   5. Nehemiah 8:10, *“the joy of the Lord is your strength.”* It is the eternal joy of an intimate relationship with God that produces strength and freedom. When you are overflowing with the satisfaction and joy of a relationship with the King of Kings, there is no room for “mud pies.”
4. **Great in theory, but what does this look like practically?** How do I participate in the intimate relationship that God wants with me? How do I let him have my heart? How do I know His heart and will and what pleases Him? God gives us some simple invitations, clear ways to draw near, today, and grow in over our lifetime:
   1. Worship – overarching
   2. Prayer
   3. His Word
   4. His People
   5. Serving
   6. These can be called “Spiritual disciplines” - ways to draw near, interact with God, to know Him, love Him and live with a closer sense of His presence, and His power. He has designed us for these, and He meets us in these
5. **Ways to Pursue Intimacy** 
   1. **Worship**
      1. Idea of “singing” or a “service” but Scripture doesn’t compartmentalize spiritual/secular.
      2. All of our life meant to show God’s worth, for Him. Whatever you do!
      3. Our worship is about worth, what we value most.
         1. Revelation 4: Angel host – never ceases to praise day and night Holy 3x, is the Lord God almighty. No one as pure, perfect.
         2. Psalm 91: Heavens are telling the glory of God, expanse declaring his works. Creative, limitless, huge
      4. He has no shortage of worship, but he wants your affection and adoration. Yours.
         1. You are made for this, made thirty for this. Psalm 63:3, *“Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.”*
      5. How do you start?
         1. Lips: Personally, learn to adore, stumble through words. Find words in Scripture. Who He is, What He has done, Singing, serenade the Lord.
         2. Life – time, affection, attention shows what we value. Offer him areas of your everyday life
   2. **Intimacy through God’s Word:** God’s want you to be known, and He wants to share with you Himself, His ways, as intimate friends.
      1. 66 Love Letters, Collection of His Revelation; Psalm 19:7, *“The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.”*
      2. Intake as discovery – of getting to know and falling in love with the author.
      3. How many people have wrestled with knowing God’s will? He has revealed what we need to know. If it’s not here, there’s freedom, apply wisdom.
      4. Closeness with Christ comes from coming to and listening to His Word.
      5. Outcome over time is greater intimacy/dependence
         1. Dependent on the Holy Spirit changes us, transforms who we are, as we get to know God through his word, and respond to Him.
         2. Aligned in our heart and life to Him.
         3. Transformed by the renewing of our mind, becoming the kind of person who does His will.
   3. **Intimacy through God’s People**
      1. God’s design to know Him includes others who have His Spirit. Living independently, isolated, miss out on knowing God, and making Him known.
      2. Ephesians 4:15-16, *“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”*
      3. Think about experience regen – support – group, mentor, recovery partners
         1. Not meant to be unique
         2. Means in one another’s life to build one another up.
         3. He’s given us His Spirit, He wants to speak through our lives.
   4. **Intimacy through Serving**
      1. God has created and gifted you, given you talents, resources, to bless others, for others to know His goodness. Ephesians 2:10, “*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”*
      2. Joy for him and a joy for you.
      3. Uniquely You – SHAPE – Step 11
         1. Eric Liddell – Scottish Olympian, 1920s, Chariots of Fire, “I believe God has made me for a purpose, and also made me fast. And when I run, I feel his pleasure.”
      4. What brings you joy, what do you do easily?
      5. Killers of this joy in my life: ***GIVE PERSONAL EXAMPLES***
      6. Separate spiritual/sacred: not just in a building, or a role
         1. Starts with those closest to us.
         2. Question: What do I do? Answer is another question: How has he made me gifted me? And who is around me that needs this?
      7. Outcome: intimacy with Christ
6. **Closing: God created us for an intimate relationship with him. To know him for who he truly is, to find joy in worship of Him.**
   * 1. Sobriety Chips: We don’t make a big deal about them. Good to celebrate the freedom that God gives us from a particular struggle, but I know too many sober drunks who cling to that 30-year chip as evidence of their health while they verbally abuse their wives and family, or they are terrible employees or they’ve just swapped one addiction for another. A chip is not always a great sign of spiritual health.
     2. **Our vision is to be an authentic community of Christ-followers who are relentless in helping each other experience intimacy with God.** Sobriety from your addiction is not our goal—because that is a short-sighted goal. Sobriety is a stop along the way true freedom.
     3. I want to celebrate the God who changes lives, who rescues us from making mud pies in slums into an intimate relationship with Him. To celebrate lives that are not just free from addiction, but free to love sacrificially, share the gospel with passion, endure hardship with peace, and speak truth with grace to a world lost in sin. To celebrate God working through his relationship with his children as they practice steadfast love, justice and righteousness—just as he did through Christ.
     4. Jeremiah 9:23-24: “Thus says the Lord: ‘Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.’”
     5. Step 11, Intimacy: We seek to deepen our relationship with God daily and depend on his power to do His will.
7. **Closing Prayer**