

Week 5 | God

Why is God called our “Father”?

In the Old Testament, you do not see any Jewish religious leader refer to God as “Father”. In fact, do you know who was the first Jewish rabbi to call God “Father”? It was _____.

When His disciples asked Him how to pray, He gave them an example. And He began the prayer, according to Matthew 6:9, by saying... *“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.”*

This was no small deal. When Jesus referred to God as Father, the Jews picked up stones to try and kill Him. But Jesus understood there was _____ in a name.

And He wanted us to know that God is not some impersonal, distant being. He is a God that we can know p_____. A God who wants to l_____ lead us.

So how is God like a father? A father is the s_____ of l_____. The process of conception begins with the man, the father.

He created human life. But He is also the source of eternal life. The new birth as a Christian is the result of God choosing to _____ us and allowing us life in His family as _____ sons and daughters (Romans 8:15).

A father p_____ and p_____. Those are some of the most important roles that God gave an earthly father. When kids get scared, they typically run to dad, to feel safe and protected.

That’s how God wired us. And the Heavenly Father is the ultimate Father who provides for His children and protects us from the _____.

Psalm 107:9 says, *“For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.”*

The words of Jesus...

"Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Matthew 6:31-33

There's many verses that remind us that God will protect us. Here's two of them. Psalm 4:8... "In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety." And Nahum 1:7... *"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him."*

A father g_____ and c_____. He has wisdom we don't have and can show us the right path for our lives.

The Heavenly Father is a loving Father who wants to pour _____ into our lives. To guide us. And He also wrote a book to help us. It's called the Bible.

You know, sometimes the path to maturity involves a little _____ along the way (or a lot for some of us).

Hebrews 12:5-6 reminds us of this... *"And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? 'My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.'"*



Whole Group Discussion

The word “Father” can mean something special for some and something painful for others. How so?

How have you seen the Father’s protection in your life?

Re-read Matthew 6:31-33. What is Jesus’ main point? How are these verses a source of encouragement to you?

Part of the confidence we can have in God as our Father is the a_____ of God. I’ll share more in our next session, but here are five of the attributes of God: omni_____, omni_____, omni_____, e_____ and I_____.

Omnipotent means God is all-_____. That means that we don’t have to be _____ because God is bigger than our enemies and our problems.

Omniscient means that God is all-_____. Which means that we don’t have to be weighed down with _____ because God knows what He’s doing and how to handle the things that burden us.

Omnipresent means that God is e_____. Which means we never have to feel _____. He is there and He is working.

Eternal means that God has always e_____ (and always will), that He has no beginning and end. So I don’t think anything will catch God _____.

And God is also immutable. Immutable means God is u_____. It doesn’t mean that He is _____ by the children He loves, but it does mean that we can always place our _____ in the Father because He will always be true to His _____. He will always be a loving Father.

God is the same yesterday, today and forever. God is always consistent in His character, and God will always follow through on His p_____.

He is a covenant-keeping Father. Malachi 3:6 says... *"For I the Lord do not change."* James 1:17 puts it... *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."*

Max Lucado describes the confidence we can have in God our Father. He says that *"God is able to accomplish, provide, help, save, keep, subdue... He is able to do what you can't. He already has a plan. God's not bewildered. Go to Him."*

Quote by Max Lucado...

"God is able to accomplish, provide, help, save, keep, subdue... He is able to do what you can't. He already has a plan. God's not bewildered. Go to Him."



Small Group Discussion

A father is the SOURCE OF LIFE. A father PROVIDES AND PROTECTS. A father GUIDES AND CORRECTS. Which of these characteristics of a father most encourages you about God the Father? Why?

Read Romans 8:15-17, 31-39. What incredible truths do we learn about God the Father in this passage?



Prayer Focus

Are you living with any fear or worry in your life? Take some time and pray that the loving Father will release the fear and worry from your life.