

Foundations of Faith

Lesson Four: Father Heart of God

God our Father

God can be described in a lot of ways. He is our creator and savior. He is holy, loving and all-powerful. In the New Testament, we come to know Him as Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit. When Jesus came he showed us what the Father is like and how to have a relationship with Him. He also taught His disciples to address God in prayer saying, "Our Father who art in heaven." When you come to faith in Jesus, you are adopted into God's family (Romans 8:15). God becomes your father.

Story on the need for a father

We all have an earthly father. Like it or not our relationship (or lack of relationship) with our earthly father has significantly shaped the way we each view God as our heavenly Father for good or for bad.

Circle the words below that best describe your earthly father. Then check the areas that describe God as a perfect father.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distant and disinterested | <input type="checkbox"/> Slow to anger | <input type="checkbox"/> Wants to help me |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kind and compassionate | <input type="checkbox"/> Impatient and harsh | <input type="checkbox"/> Condemning and unforgiving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passive and cold | <input type="checkbox"/> Too busy for me | <input type="checkbox"/> Full of grace when I fail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nitpicking or perfectionistic | <input type="checkbox"/> Faithful to protect and provide | <input type="checkbox"/> Let's me do whatever I want |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warm and accepting | <input type="checkbox"/> Disciplines because he loves me | <input type="checkbox"/> Unconditionally loves me |

In what ways do you believe God is like or not like your earthly father? _____

Our Father's Goodness

Read Matthew 7:7-11. What does this verse teach us about God? _____

Read Daniel 3:13-28. What do these verses teach us about God's protection of us? _____

Read Matthew 6:31-34. Why are God's children not to worry? _____

Story on God's provision

Our Father's Love

Read Luke 15:11-24. What are the similarities between this father and God the Father? _____

Read Hebrews 12:5-11.

Why does God discipline us? _____

What are the results of God's discipline? _____

Read Romans 8:31-39. Describe the love of God in your own words. _____

List some ways God has revealed His love to you? _____

Story on the love of God

YOUR RESPONSE THIS WEEK:

- Share with the one taking you through this lesson any painful memories of your relationship with your earthly father.
- Pray the following prayer: *“God, I believe you are my perfect Father. I choose to believe what the Bible says about you rather than my experiences. Open the eyes of my heart to see you more clearly as you really are.”*
- Agree with the one taking you through this lesson on a realistic but challenging goal to share the gospel this week.
- Share this lesson with someone who is ready to be trained.