

Small Group Study

The Father's Heart

From the sermon series, "Family Matters"



SCRIPTURE

Have volunteers read the following scriptures:

Romans 8:31-39 and Matthew 6:9-14

INTRODUCTION

If we understand what God is really like, then we will have a greater understanding of who we are in relationship to God. And then, we will be in a much better position to discover who we are in Christ.

First, let's look at the Lord's Prayer as it begins with two precious words — "Our Father."

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name,

- v. 10 Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- v. 11 Give us today our daily bread.
- v. 12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
- v. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

Our Father — this is how Jesus taught us to address God.

With these two short words, Jesus profoundly describes our position and relationship with God.

Icebreakers

Use the questions below to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)



1. Share one funny story involving your father.
2. What is one thing either you like to do with your son/daughter or one thing you liked doing with your dad?
3. Tell us about someone who was not your father, but was definitely a "father figure" in your life.

The word “our” indicates God is corporately the possession of all who accept Christ and decide to follow Him.

In Romans 10:12-13, the Scriptures establish that we are united with all Christians through our faith in Jesus Christ. And it is in this context of corporate faith that God reveals Himself as our Father.

Sometimes we would rather have God just to ourselves — and we do, in a sense; but there is also a sense in which we have to realize that God is the Father as well.

Second, look at the character of God — our Father — and His love for us and the healing power of His love in our lives. In the natural and in the supernatural, who and what we become is affected and defined by our parents. Our genealogy influences who we become.

Galatians 3:29 reads, “If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

Galatians 4:7 says that we are heirs through Jesus Christ: “So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.”

Romans 8:16-17 says that “The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

And finally, we are His sons and daughters through Jesus Christ — a supernatural genealogy!

QUESTIONS

- 1.** What examples come to mind that your father set for you? How has your father influenced or affected your life?
- 2.** Which of these examples are you practicing or following today? Which would you prefer not to emulate?
- 3.** If you did not grow up with a father, who were your “father” role models in life?
- 4.** How is your Father in heaven like your father on earth? How is He different?
- 5.** Share a recent time when God disciplined and corrected you. What did you learn?
- 6.** What does it mean to find our delight in our Father in heaven? How does one do that?
- 7.** Read Luke 11:9-13 and Matthew 6:25-34. Share some of the ways in which, even though you were worried, God provided for you.
- 8.** Spend time as a group praying and worshipping God for all that He is, all that He does, and for His unfailing love.

God bless,
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