

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.

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.

- Distant and disinterested
- Kind and compassionate
- Passive and cold
- Nitpicking or perfectionist
- Warm and accepting
- Slow to anger
- Impatient and harsh
- Too busy for me
- Faithful to protect and provide
- Disciplines because he loves me
- Wants to help me
- Condemning and unforgiving
- Full of grace when I fail
- Let's me do whatever I want
- 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?

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:

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.