

God the Father

our heavenly daddy

Start Here

You have read, prayed and reflected about your identity as a child of God in the last few days. How has this helped your relationship with him?

Discuss

In this step we'll look at God as our Father. Some may have good experiences with their earthly fathers, but for others the experience was bad. We will explore how our heavenly Father is always good and loving towards us.

Read this true story. What are some benefits children have when they have a good father?

A 6-year-old boy had a good relationship with his father who loved him greatly. They lived in a country experiencing war. One day when they were out together, they suddenly heard gunfire. A battle began in the streets around them. The father took his son's hand and started to walk home. He tried to be calm so his son would not be afraid.

As they walked, the sound of war grew louder and louder. The father thought his son would become very frightened. But when he glanced down, he saw his son was happy and smiling. When they finally got home, the father asked his son: "Were you not afraid while we were on the streets with the sound of the bombing?"

"No," the son replied.

The father was curious and asked, "My son, why were you not afraid?"

The son explained, "Daddy, I was not afraid because you were holding my hand."

As this story shows, when children have a good father, they experience peace, even in the midst of the storms of life.

Main Idea

Jesus shows us that God is a good Father who we can always trust.

In the Gospels, Jesus constantly referred (over 150 times!) to God as Father. And he made it clear that God is a good, perfect and loving Father that we can always trust.

Of course, our own experiences with our earthly fathers impact how we approach our Father in heaven. Some of us have had good fathers. Like the boy in the story, we are confident and comfortable in God's presence.

But others of us have had difficult, even abusive relationships with our earthly father. This can make it hard for us to even call God 'Father' or feel comfortable in his presence.

No matter what our experience with our earthly father, we can all grow in the joy and blessings of a close relationship with our perfect, heavenly Father.

Explore the Word

As we read the Bible, we discover more and more about what the Father is like.

Read the following passages. List the characteristics of God the Father and the ways that we can approach him.

1. Matthew 7:9-11
2. Luke 15:11-24

Practice Together Now

- From what you have learned about God as Father, which aspect is most helpful or relevant to your life today?
- What situation are you walking through right now where you need to hold the Father's hand?
- How can you put your hand in the Father's hand this week?

You can use this prayer:

“ Father, I rejoice and declare that you are a good Father to me. Thank you that you love me unconditionally and that you are always caring for me. Thank you that you want me to share my burdens with you, so I bring my situation to you now. I remind myself that you are present in the midst of my challenges. You will never leave me or forsake me. I ask you to guide me. I am so glad to be your child and I want to stay close to you.”

Review your Practice Daily

- As you continue to read through Luke and the Psalms, choose an additional verse daily from the list below:
 - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
 - Jeremiah 29:11
 - 1 John 1:9
 - Isaiah 41:10
- As you read them, reflect on these questions:
 - What do these verses tell me about God the Father?
 - What do these verses tell me about how I can approach him?
 - How am I to live today based on this truth?
- Choose one verse, write it out, and place it where you will see it regularly. Every time you see it, read it aloud, and ask the Father to reveal himself more deeply.
- Each day spend a few moments committing whatever you are facing into the Father's hands. You can use the prayer above.