

God is Father

Father's Day

June 21, 2015

INTRODUCTION

Fathers play a huge role in the overall health, development and growth of a child. Numerous studies and research have all found that children who grow up without a father are more likely to be poor, get involved in drug and alcohol abuse, drop out of school and suffer various health and emotional problems. As we celebrate our earthly fathers, it's important for us to understand the importance of honoring our Heavenly Father by knowing who He is and what He's done for us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the kind of relationship that you have with your father, both past and present.
2. Many people tend to project their views of their earthly father onto their Heavenly Father. How have your experiences with (or without) an earthly father influenced how you see God the Father?
3. Read 2 Peter 3:9 and 1 John 1:9. Describe how you've experienced God's patience and forgiveness. What does it mean to you to know that you have a patient and forgiving Father?
4. Read 1 John 3:1. It says in this verse that God has lavished His love on us. How have you experienced God's love for you? Why is it that sometimes we have a difficult time wrapping our minds around this truth?
5. On a scale of 1 to 10 (one being the least), how intimate are you with God the Father through Christ? How can you cultivate and nurture a growing relationship with God?

CONCLUSION

God is our patient, forgiving and intimate Heavenly Father. He wants so much for us to be with Him that He made a way through the death and sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. He did this so that we could draw near to Him and know Him as our Abba Father. As we read in 1 John 3, God has *lavished* His love upon us. He went to extraordinary and extravagant lengths to show His great love for us

As we celebrate Father's Day, let us not forget about the greatest Father of all, our Heavenly Father, who is not distant and far away, but who is patient and forgiving and intimately involved in our lives. Let us remember on this day that our God is Father.

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" – 1 John 3:1