

“Our Father in Heaven.” Matthew 6:9

A Rich Phrase of Relationship – Matthew 6:9

When we pray, “Our Father in Heaven ...”

- We do not Pray _____ – *Our*
- We pray to _____ who hears and knows and understands and cares. – *Father*
- We pray to a Friend in _____ – *in heaven*

I. A Fresh way to Look at God ... Father

- As Father, He is the _____ or paternity or origin.
Cp. James 1:17; Hebrews 12:9
- As Father, it implies parental _____.
Cp. John 8:38
- As Father, it necessitates _____.
Cp. John 1:12; Matthew 27:46
- As Father, we confess that he is a God of tender _____.
Cp. Exodus 34:6-7; Psalm 136; Micah 6:8

II. Good News from a well-known story ... Luke 15:11-32

- In _____ ... the only thing that mattered was not the stuff he lost
- In _____ ... he gained everything that mattered ... and more.

Application

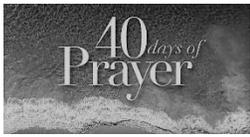
“Our Father” answers the all-important question, “Is there anyone up there who _____?”

Everything God _____ and that He _____ is wrapped in the word “Father.”

1. What do you think of when you hear the word “father?” Are your mental images positive or negative? How does your experience with your earthly father impact your view of God as your Heavenly Father?
2. Read through the passages below. What do each tell us about the characteristics of a “Good Father?”
Psalm 103:13-18 Matthew 7:7-11 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12
Hebrews 12:4-11
3. Read Luke 15:11-32 slowly and thoughtfully. Put yourself in the prodigal son’s place. What made him want to leave home? What made him finally decide to come home? How do you think he felt as he prepared to meet his father?
4. Now put yourself in the father’s place. Think about the range of emotions he must have felt when his son asked for his share of the estate. How would you have responded in that situation? How did he feel during the long months or years his son was in the “far country?” Why didn’t he punish his son when he finally came home? Would you have been tougher than he was?
5. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.
 - a. For someone who had a difficult relationship with their earthly father, how can we assist them to learn to trust God who identifies Himself as “Father?”
 - b. How could our experiences as a prodigal eventually become opportunities of ministry or service? What must happen first?

Memory Verse

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, – Psalm 107:15



“Our Father in Heaven.” Matthew 6:9

A Rich Phrase of Relationship – Matthew 6:9

When we pray, “Our Father in Heaven ...”

- We do not Pray **Alone** – *Our*
- We pray to **One** who hears and knows and understands and cares. – *Father*
- We pray to a Friend in **High Places** – *in heaven*

I. A Fresh way to Look at God ... Father

- As Father, He is the **source** or paternity or origin.
Cp. James 1:17; Hebrews 12:9
- As Father, it implies parental **authority**.
Cp. John 8:38
- As Father, it necessitates **relationship**.
Cp. John 1:12; Matthew 27:46
- As Father, we confess that he is a God of tender **loving care**.
Cp. Exodus 34:6-7; Psalm 136; Micah 6:8

II. Good News from a well-known story ... Luke 15:11-32

- c. In **losing it all** ... the only thing that mattered was not the stuff he lost
- d. In **coming home** ... he gained everything that mattered ... and more.

Application

“Our Father” answers the all-important question, “Is there anyone up there who **cares for me**?”

Everything God **Has For Us** and that He **Is For Us** is wrapped in the word “*Father*.”

1. What do you think of when you hear the word “father?” Are your mental images positive or negative? How does your experience with your earthly father impact your view of God as your Heavenly Father?
2. Read through the passages below. What do each tell us about the characteristics of a “Good Father?”
Psalm 103:13-18 Matthew 7:7-11 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12
Hebrews 12:4-11
3. Read Luke 15:11-32 slowly and thoughtfully. Put yourself in the prodigal son’s place. What made him want to leave home? What made him finally decide to come home? How do you think he felt as he prepared to meet his father?
4. Now put yourself in the father’s place. Think about the range of emotions he must have felt when his son asked for his share of the estate. How would you have responded in that situation? How did he feel during the long months or years his son was in the “far country?” Why didn’t he punish his son when he finally came home? Would you have been tougher than he was?
5. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.
 - a. For someone who had a difficult relationship with their earthly father, how can we assist them to learn to trust God who identifies Himself as “Father?”
 - b. How could our experiences as a prodigal eventually become opportunities of ministry or service? What must happen first?

Memory Verse

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, – Psalm 107:15