



THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

The Word of God teaches that God is triune:¹ God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. A perfect example of the fatherhood of God can be clearly seen between Jesus and His Father. As Creator of all, God is the Originator of all things, Sustainer of life — the Father of all, *there is one God and Father of all . . .* (Ephesians 4:6). All creation is the object of His Fatherly care. As our heavenly Father, He maintains an intimate relationship with His spiritual children, those who have come into the family of God. Man is born into the family of God by accepting the Father's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God* (John 1:12, 13).

THEME SCRIPTURE

But now, O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand (Isaiah 64:8)

¹ triune: trinity; three Persons of the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (John 14:20, 27).

SECTION I – Definitions

1. WRITE your own definition of *fatherhood*. _____

Dictionary Definition

Webster's dictionary defines father as a male parent, sire, progenitor, procreator, forbear, ancestor, head of household, papa, dad, daddy, originator, founder, inventor, promoter.

Biblical Definition

The Biblical Hebrew word *ab* is father: chief, patrimony, principle ancestor, founder, author, maker, nourisher, master, teacher.

The Biblical Greek *pater* describes the father as the originator of a spiritual family whose source of life is Himself: parent, a nourisher, provider, a protector and an upholder.

Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scriptures that describe God as Father. UNDERLINE the word or phrase which tell of and explain God's fatherhood.

Isaiah 63:16 *Doubtless You are our Father, though Abraham was ignorant of us, and Israel does not acknowledge us. You, O LORD, are our Father; our Redeemer from Everlasting is Your name.*

Isaiah 64:8 *But now, O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our Potter; and we are the work of Your hand.*

Romans 8:14-17a *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba,² Father.' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ . . .*

II Corinthians 6:17, 18 *Therefore 'come out from among them [unbelievers] and be separate, says the Lord . . . and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,' says the Lord Almighty.*

Galatians 3:26 *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*

² *Abba*: the personal name of father such as "daddy." It speaks of absolute trust as that of a child with a parent.

Galatians 4:6 *And because you are sons [believers], God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'*

I John 3:1a *Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!*

3. What did you learn about God the Father from these Scriptures? _____

PERSONAL

How has what you have learned impacted your life? _____

SECTION II – The Heavenly Father and His Only Begotten Son

Through the Father and His Son, we see vivid and tender illustrations of the intimate relationship they sustained during Christ's ministry on earth.

WRITE what you observed about the interaction between the Father and His Son. NOTE: The following Scriptures are in chronological order.

Matthew 3:16, 17 _____

Luke 2:41-49 _____

John 1:14 _____

John 3:35 _____

John 5:18-23 _____

John 5:36 _____

John 15:9 _____

John 16:26-28 _____

Mark 14:35, 36 _____

Luke 23:32-34 _____

Acts 7:55, 56 _____

Revelation 3:21 _____

PERSONAL

Do you have an intimate relationship with our heavenly Father and His Son? If not stop right now and ask Jesus into your heart.

If you have a relationship with God, DESCRIBE it. _____

LOOK DEEPER

In John 17 we find Jesus speaking to His Father interceding for Himself, His disciples and all believers. WRITE what He prayed to His Father in each section.

Jesus Prays for Himself

Verses 1-5 _____

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

Verses 6-19 _____

Jesus Prays for All Believers

Verses 20-26 _____

SECTION III – A Father and His Two Sons

READ Luke 15:11-32.

Jesus taught this parable³ about an earthly father and his two sons to demonstrate the love of the heavenly Father toward His children.

1. A certain man had two sons and the younger asked for his inheritance. LIST what the younger son did with his portion of the inheritance (vv. 11-14a).

2. After spending all of his inheritance, there arose a severe famine. What situation did he find himself (vv. 14-16)?

3. What did he finally realize (v. 17)? _____

³ parable: a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson as told by Jesus in the Gospels.

4. What decision did he make? What would he humbly ask of his father (vv. 18, 19)? _____

5. How did his father receive him (vv. 20, 21)? _____

What did the son confess to his father? _____

6. In what ways did the father honor the son (vv. 22-24)? _____

What did the father joyfully tell the servants about his son? _____

PERSONAL

How have you repented and asked for forgiveness of the Father for your rebellion against Him? _____

DESCRIBE how you have experienced God's forgiveness and grace?⁴ _____

⁴ grace: unmerited favor of God; God's grace meets man in his wickedness and offers righteousness as a gift; an act of God, the divine influence upon the heart; God's unmerited acceptance, benevolence, favor, gift, joy, and pleasure toward man. The source of goodwill, love and salvation.

LOOK DEEPER

READ Luke 15:1-10. In these two parables, what does Jesus teach concerning God's pursuit of the sinner? What does the Father and His angels do when one of His children repents and returns to Him?

The Lost Sheep (vv. 1-7) _____

The Lost Coin (vv. 8-10) _____

7. What did the servant say to the older son when he heard music and dancing (Luke 15:25-27)? _____

8. The elder son was angry. What was his father's response to him (v. 28)? _____

9. What was the older son's response to his father's pleadings (vv. 29, 30)? _____

10. WRITE out the father's gracious and merciful answer to his elder son (vv. 31, 32)? _____

PERSONAL

What characteristics of God's fatherhood impressed you the most in this story? Why? _____

SECTION IV – Scriptural References of God's Fatherhood

LOOK-UP each Scripture and MATCH them to the corresponding statements.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| ___ Malachi 2:10 | a. every good gift comes from our Heavenly Father, the Father of Lights |
| ___ Matthew 6:6 | b. if you have seen Jesus you have seen the Father |
| ___ Matthew 6:8 | c. we all have one Father |
| ___ Matthew 11:25 | d. the Father gives us that true Bread from heaven |
| ___ Matthew 23:9 | e. our fellowship is with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ |
| ___ Luke 11:13 | f. praying in secret your Father will reward you openly |
| ___ John 6:32, 33 | g. the Father knows what you have need of |
| ___ John 14:9 | i. the Father reveals His secrets to babes |
| ___ James 1:17 | j. the Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him |
| ___ I John 1:3 | k. don't call anyone Father, one is your Father |

WRITE THE THEME SCRIPTURE.

(Isaiah 64:8)

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.*

Matthew 6:9, 10

NOTES: _____

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Due to the holy nature of God, the first letter of all references to Him,
His holy name, and His Word have been capitalized.

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