



**His Name Shall Be Called – Everlasting Father
Pastor Joseph Zwanziger 12.17.2023**

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Isaiah 9:6, ESV]

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

[Isaiah 7:14, ESV]

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

[Isaiah 9:6, ESV]

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

[Psalm 27:10, NLT]

Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close.

"Knowing God as our FATHER is IMMENSELY important to our understanding of and relationship WITH Him!"

[Matthew 7:11, NLT]

"So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, HOW MUCH MORE will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him."

[Luke 15:11–32, ESV]

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants." ' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate. "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.'

But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.' "

1) The Father Accepts us As We Are

2) The Father's Heart is Filled with Joy when He Thinks of Us

[Zephaniah 3:17]

He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

3) The Father Gives us what We don't Deserve

[Psalm 68:6, NLT]

God places the lonely in families.

[Romans 8:16–17, ESV]

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.

4) When we come to the Father, He RUNS to Us

[Matthew 6:6–10, ESV]

But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Key Points:

- 1) The Father Accepts us As We Are
- 2) The Father's Heart is Filled with Joy when He Thinks of Us
- 3) The Father Gives us what We don't Deserve
- 4) When we come to the Father, He RUNS to Us

Application for the Week:

This week, make it your aim to connect with God by reading and studying your Bible. As you discover the autobiography of God, you will experience a deeper relationship with Him as your Everlasting Father.

Discussion Questions

1. What is one of your most memorable moments of Christmas as a child?
2. How can our relationship or lack of relationship with our earthly father affect our perspective of God as our Father?
3. Pastor Joseph said, "We cannot compare our relationships with our earthly father to our Heavenly Father." With this knowledge, what is our Everlasting Father like?
4. How is the Bible key to understanding who our Everlasting Father is?
5. What four things can we learn from Luke 15 about the Father? **[Reference Key Points]**
6. What do the Ring, Robe, and Sandals represent in the Prodigal story? (Grace vs Deserving)
7. How have you seen the Lord "hold you close" or "take you in" [Psalm 27:10]
8. How has the Everlasting Father "ran to you" in a time of need? On the other hand, how do we come to Him?