



GOD: THE INFINITE FATHER

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WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **Washed** (*Elevation Rhythm*)
- **I Know That I Know** (*The Belonging Co.*)
- **This Is Our God** (*Phil Wickham*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

1. Hebrews 11:6
2. Luke 11:1, 12-14
3. Matthew 6:6, 9
4. Romans 8:14-16

OPENING PRAYER

Begin your group time by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and help each person encounter God as their loving Father.

Ice Breaker (5-10 min)

Share a positive memory of your earthly father or a father figure in your life. If you don't have one, share what you wish a father could have been for you.

Core Values Highlight

THE FATHER HEART OF GOD

We love seeing people awoken to the fatherly love of God. God, the infinite creator and perfect judge, loves each one of His children uniquely.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-40 min)

Understanding God as Father

1. What images or feelings come to mind when you think of God as "Father"? How has your earthly father (or lack thereof) shaped your view of God?
2. Pastor Brian mentioned "the infinite fatherliness of God." What do you think that phrase means? How is God's fatherhood different from human fatherhood?
3. Read Romans 8:14-16. What does it mean that we can cry "Abba, Father"? Why is this significant?

The Prayer Life of Jesus

4. The disciples were so moved by Jesus' prayer life that they asked Him to teach them to pray. What do you think they observed in Jesus that made His prayer life so compelling?
5. Read Matthew 6:6. What does it mean to pray to "your Father who is in secret"? What makes this kind of prayer different from public or routine prayers?
6. Pastor Brian said Jesus doesn't just want to teach us a method of praying but wants to introduce us to His Father. How does this perspective change the way you approach prayer?

God's Delight in Answering Prayer

7. Read Matthew 7:9-11. Have you ever felt like God gave you a "stone" when you asked for "bread"? How does this passage challenge that perception?
8. According to Luke 11:13, what is the greatest gift the Father wants to give us? Why do you think this is the ultimate gift?
9. What keeps you from asking God for what you need? Fear? Doubt? Feeling unworthy? Discuss honestly as a group.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. The Greatest Human Need: Reconciliation with Our Heavenly Father
 - God constantly introduces Himself throughout the Bible because we don't truly know Him
 - We often misunderstand who He is and what He is like
 - Faith requires us to believe He exists AND that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him (Hebrews 11:6)
2. Jesus Invites Us Into Intimate Relationship
 - The disciples were so compelled by Jesus' prayer life that they asked Him to teach them to pray
 - Prayer is not just a method or activity—it's an introduction to the Father
 - God invites us into the "inner room"—the most private, intimate place with Him
3. The Father Delights in Answering Our Prayers
 - God is a better Father than any earthly parent could be
 - He doesn't give stones when we ask for bread or scorpions when we ask for eggs
 - He especially delights in giving us the Holy Spirit when we ask

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)

This Week's Challenge

Choose one or more of the following to practice this week:

1. Create Your "Inner Room"
 - Identify a specific place and time where you can meet with God privately each day
 - Spend at least 10-15 minutes in this space daily, beginning with "Father, teach me to pray"
 - Journal about what you experience
2. Practice "Abba, Father" Prayer
 - Begin your prayer times this week by simply saying "Abba, Father" (which means "Daddy")
 - Sit quietly and let the reality of being God's beloved child sink in
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any false beliefs you have about God as Father
3. Ask Boldly
 - Make a list of specific things you need from your Heavenly Father
 - Bring these requests to Him daily, trusting that He delights in giving good gifts
 - Specifically ask for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit

4. Study God's Introductions

- Read through a Gospel this week and note every time God (or Jesus) introduces Himself or reveals His character
- Write down what you learn about who God really is versus who you thought He was

CLOSING REFLECTION AND PRAYER

Pray Together:

- That each group member would experience a deeper revelation of God's Father heart
- For healing from any wounds caused by earthly fathers that distort our view of God
- For boldness to ask God for what we need, trusting His goodness
- For a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit
- For the upcoming Easter season and Monday's Seder meal event

Looking Ahead

- Encourage group members to attend the Passover/Seder meal event on Monday night
- Remind everyone about Palm Sunday next week, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday
- Consider reading one of Andrew Murray's books mentioned: "With Christ in the School of Prayer"

Closing Prayer

End your time by having each person share one way they want to experience God as Father this week. Pray for one another, asking the Father to meet each specific need.