

**SUNDAY**  
**JUNE 19**  
**2022**

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**#99117**

Matthew 6:9

*“Navigating Your Family Through Life”*  
*(Father’s Day Message)*

## Matthew 6:9

<sup>9</sup>In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. NKJV

Remember in your study . . .

- 1) You're always speaking to hurting people!
- 2) Always point to Jesus
- 3) Don't criticize, just instruct

# Intro/Thesis – Navigating Your Family Through Life

1. **[An 8-year-old boy...]**

2. **Today we celebrate Father's Day – and we're going to do so by learning some navigation skills... we're going to look at four SHIPS that every father must learn to navigate**

A. **...Because you're not just a 'PASSENGER'... you're the one called to to the task of Navigating Your Family Through Life; you have a responsibility to your crew**

3. **We're going to look at one verse – which will become 'true north' for the purpose of our journey (study) [9]**

<sup>9</sup>In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. NKJV

4. **This was NEWS to the Jews... address God as 'Father?'**

A. **Not a distant OGRE... but a personal FATHER**

B. **The role of FATHER is not to be that of a distant ogre... but of a personal, caring, leader of the home... One who has a good sense of direction for life (knowing where True North is – God's Word)**

5. **So, if you're ready for the journey... Dad; here are the FOUR SHIPS we are called to navigate this life in: Relationships, Lordship, Fellowship, and Stewardship**

## PT 1 – Relationship

### 1. The word 'Father' in Jesus' prayer, implies a CLOSE relationship

**A. If you were to look at the ancient Greek and Roman gods, you'd notice that they are very 'distant' from the people**

(1) The people are more like 'pawn's in their own soap opera world filled with fighting and jealousies

(2) According to Greek mythology, the gods and goddesses had to be appeased by man in order to gain their favor OR you might end up with them mad at you...

*(a) You never really knew where you stood with them – the gods were to be feared... that was the mindset of the Gentiles during Jesus' time*

**B. The Jews relationship was also based on fear...(you speak Moses!)**

(1) They imagined Him as powerful, sovereign... but distant; not close like a father

(2) In fact, the FIRST Jewish rabbi to address 'God' as 'Father,' was... Rabbi Jesus (and He taught His disciples to relate to God that way!)

*(a) One of the reasons so many wanted Jesus dead was because He CLAIMED and TAUGHT personal relationship with 'the Father'*

**C. (Ga 4:6) "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" NKJV**

### 2. Question for you Dad... what is your relationship with God like?

**A. Is He the mighty, awesome, sovereign, distant God... OR is He 'Father'**

**B. You see... you're relationship with HIM as HIS child, is going to reflect in your relationship as a Father to your children**

(1) I'm a PASTOR... I'm my KIDS pastor. BUT, if they addressed me as PASTOR instead of Dad... I'd be offended

*(a) 'Pastor' is so distant and official for a relationship that should be as close as ours! [could be my fault, like captain in sound of music]*

**C. [J.I. Packer, in his book 'Knowing God,' wrote]**

### 3. So, as a Father, a SHIP we need to learn to sail in life is Relationship

## PT 2 – Lordship

**1. To refer to God as ‘Father’ also implies that WE are in the position of CHILD**

**A. So there is also the idea of RANK and RESPECT**

**B. (Eph 5:1) "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children." NKJV**

**2. One of the ten commandments is “honor your father and your mother”**

**A. And if we’re to honor our earthly parents, how much more should we honor our heavenly Father?**

**3. You see, we need to learn to model His Lordship in our lives – We may be the head of our home, but He’s LORD GOD!**

**A. We may be called to LEAD, but it’s only so we can FOLLOW Him...**

**B. As Jesus continues the prayer, He will say ‘THY kingdom come, THY will be done...’**

**(1) You see, the RELATIONSHIP with God that we model CANNOT be one of sloppy sentimentalism... but one of LOVE and REVERENCE**

**C. It’s been said there are TWO types of people gracing the halls of the church – those who say “THY will be done,” and those who say “MY will be done”**

**(1) Which are you? Because how you navigate this second ship (Lordship), will heavily influence how your family views submission, sacrifice, selflessness VS selfishness [So Relationships, Lordship:]**

## PT 3 – Fellowship

**1. Notice Jesus didn't say "MY Father who art in heaven," but "OUR Father"**

**A. The idea is that WE are not the one the world OR God's agenda revolves around... God has other children! We are part of a family**

**2. I believe in a PERSONAL relationship with the Lord; I encourage people to press into a personal relationship with the Lord**

**A. However, I think we in the west, have a tendency to overemphasize this idea of a personal relationship**

**(1) To the point that we mistake it for a PRIVATE relationship with God – and thus we have no responsibility to anybody else (it's just me and God)**

**B. Yet in the NT we constantly read that we are to consider others, that we are a family, that we should consider others more than ourselves, that we are the BODY of Christ... we NEED each other**

**(1) This needs to be modeled in our homes, everyone contributing to the upkeep of the home, all it takes to maintain a home that glorifies God**

**(2) THEN, this needs to be modeled in our churches, everyone contributing to the upkeep of the house of God, the body of Christ working together, building one another up – using their gifts...**

**(a) When a man got saved, it was He AND his family that followed God**

**C. A question some have asked is, [**do I have to go to church**] to be a Christian?'**

**3. It's so much easier to pull back into our own little world... but it's unbiblical**

**A. (Pr 18:1) "A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment." NKJV**

**4. So we need to learn to navigate: Relationships, Lordship, Fellowship:**

## PT 4 – Stewardship

### 1. Notice Jesus says, “Our Father who ART IN HEAVEN”

A. Our Father is from Heaven – He’s not limited by our economic system... He’s got all the resources of heaven...

B. This is important because many pray to the Lord and they place OUR limitations HERE on Him

(1) They’ll find themselves in certain circumstances and go, ‘Lord, this is a big one Lord. We need...’ and it’s like we think it’s a pretty big request...

### 2. What we need to understand is that the Lord who CREATED everything... owns everything

A. Now listen... He entrusts us with the stewardship of certain things

(1) We have TIME...

(2) We have TALENT... (the ability to lead, speak, earn a living)

(3) We have TREASURE...

(a) *(Dt 8:18) "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day." NKJV*

B. Since it’s Father’s Day, I want to highlight an area of stewardship the Lord He has entrusted us with: the Stewardship of our families

(1) The average family spends almost NO time together in a productive, unifying way

(a) *I don’t mean having family game night, I mean talking about LIFE, what’s going on in each others HEARTS, what’s the plan and what are the expectations for this next week, reminding each other that you love each other...*

(2) So much time gets wasted... video games, surfing the internet, watching Memes/TikTok Videos, and before you know it, the day is gone

(a) *All the time that could have been used to BUILD the home, the FAMILY, has been spent on... NOTHING*

(3) Dad... this is where you step in and navigate good stewardship in the home

(a) *Give the family God’s Plans for the home...*

(b) *(Eph 5:15–16) "<sup>15</sup> See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, <sup>16</sup> redeeming the time, because the days are evil." NKJV*

## **Closing/Summary (Wrap up with Jesus)**

**1. So there's your 'Father's Day' compass recalibration – the 'ships' that every Father must learn to navigate: Relationships, Lordship, Fellowship, and Stewardship**

**A. You don't have to do 'great things,' just do the 'basic things' well (to include taking out the trash 😊)**

**B. And remember, Dad... you're not alone. You have a GUIDE (the HS)... and a FATHER in heaven who cares and wants to help you are you're **Navigating Your Family Through Life****

**(1) Make sure you spend time with HIM, so you know how to spend your time with THEM wisely**

**(2) Jesus taught us to pray "Our Father who art in heaven..."**

**2. I pray that each of you have a wonderful Father's Day**

**A. Whether you ARE a Father, will spend time with your father, or only have a HEAVENLY Father, May the Lord help you appreciate the ROLE of a Father in the home; and the SHIPS we ALL must learn to NAVIGATE in this life**

**3. Closing prayer**



### **An Eight-Year-Old Boy**

An eight-year-old boy said, “my dad can climb the highest mountain, can swim the biggest ocean, he can fly the fastest plane, and he can fight the strongest tiger. My dad can do anything. But most of the time, he just carries out the garbage.”

That’s about right – AND it highlights an important truth: Dads just need to do the ‘basic’ things well in order to be the hero... to steer the ship in the right direction, to keep the family going.

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**J.I. Packer wrote:**

If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child and having God as his father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means he does not understand Christianity very well at all. For everything that Christ taught, everything that makes the New Testament new and better than the Old, everything that is distinctly Christian as opposed to merely Jewish, is summed up in the knowledge of the fatherhood of God.

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## Do I Have to go to Church to be a Christian?

It often goes like this:

- I say 'why do you ask that?'
- And they say "well, I just don't believe in organized religion – I have my OWN relationship with the Lord"

So the idea is, 'I want to march to my own drum. I don't want any other drumbeats messing up my rhythm'

Well, the answer is, going to church doesn't make you a Christian or not a Christian.

- You're saved by grace through faith alone.
- However, once you are saved... to say 'I don't need to plug into the body of Christ...'
  - ...It's like saying 'I want to be a tuba player, but I don't want to play in an orchestra'...

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