



Family Conversation Guide

(October 10, 2021)

This week, David Chadwick will talk about **the importance of fathers**, and especially God our Father. Help children find the passage in their Bibles and make sure you have pens and paper available for family members to take notes.

READ AND DISCUSS

Ask family members: **“What is the role of a father? How is God like a father?”**

Note: In the Old Testament, God is called “Father” only about 12 times, but in the New Testament, Jesus calls God “Father” **over 160 times**. Jesus wants us to understand the importance of God, our Abba Father, who loves us (in Jesus’s day, “Abba” was what a child would call her father---like today’s term “Daddy.”). Our Father in heaven is our Daddy! Our study today will be in three sections- three things we need to know about the Father.

The Way to the Father

1. At the end of **John 13**, **the disciples were confused**. Jesus had just told them He would be leaving, that He would soon die and be going back to heaven. They didn’t understand, because he had just ridden into Jerusalem on a donkey, and He was welcomed as a king would be welcomed. **They thought He had come to establish His kingdom on earth! Now, He was saying He was leaving.** Their hearts were deeply troubled. Agitated. Struggling.
2. In **John 14:1**, Jesus said, “Let not your hearts be troubled.” **What does it feel like when your heart is troubled?** (*Terribly agitated, anxious, overwhelmed*) **Has your heart ever been troubled?** Yet, in this statement Jesus is telling them **NOT to let their hearts be troubled**. He makes clear it is a choice. We

can choose whether or not to be anxious and upset.

- You can focus on the problem, or on the Lord of the universe.
- In **Romans 12**, Paul says to “Be transformed by the renewal of your minds.”
- In **2 Corinthians 10** Paul said, “Take every thought captive.” Control your thought life. **You are what you think!** Thoughts become feelings and feelings become actions. It is your choice whether to be anxious or not.

3. **How can we have peace in Jesus?** *(Jesus says, “You believe in God, believe also in me.” This is a command. Jesus wants us to believe in Him and trust Him, with anything that is causing us to worry, to be anxious, to be in fear. He wants us to give it to Him!)*

4. Read **John 14:2-4**. Jesus has prepared a place for us. **Where is that place?** *(Heaven)* David Chadwick says this is like a Jewish wedding celebration. **How is this like the bride and the bridegroom?** *(In those times, when a couple were to be married, the groom would make a contract- promises- with the father and the bride, and he would give her a precious gift. Then he would leave to go and prepare a place for her. Jesus is the groom, the church is the bride, and Jesus was leaving to prepare a place for us in heaven! The precious gift is His life, he gave it for us so that we could live with Him forever.)*

5. Read **John 14:3**. Jesus promises to come back, when the place He prepared for us is ready- just as the groom would come back for his bride. In **verse 4**, Jesus says, “I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

6. In **Revelation 21**, John talks about the New Jerusalem that will be our heavenly home. **Our new dwelling place in heaven will be wonderful! Beautiful! Beyond description!** God has a special place for us, and we will be with those we love who have gone to heaven before us! Jesus says very clearly, “If it were not so, I would not have told you.” He is telling us the truth. He would

not lie to us about something this important!

7. In **verse 4**, Jesus says they know the way to go where he is going. **What is the way?** *(By following Jesus! It is the only way to have the gift of eternal life.)*

The Character of the Father

8. Thomas questions Jesus in **verse 5**. Read what he asks. **Is it okay to question God? Does God want us to tell Him when we don't understand?** *(The answer is "yes." Jesus encouraged all his followers to ask, seek, and knock - Matthew 7).*

9. Read **John 14:6**, Jesus answers Thomas with one of His "I am" statements in the book of John. Here they are:

- I am the bread of life. **John 6:35**
- I am the light of the world. **John 8:12**
- I am the gate. **John 10:9**
- I am the good shepherd. **John 10:10**
- I am the resurrection and the life. **John 11:25**
- I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **John 14:6** **(Are you forgiven?** If you have been forgiven, Jesus has given you the way to the Father and eternal life by giving His life for you. He is the gate to eternal life. He is the only way, but it is our choice.)

10. Read **verses 7-11**. It talks about the character of the Father. **How can we know God?** *(The way to know God's character is to look at Jesus. That is why He came to this earth! God became one of us to show us his nature- his compassion, love, forgiveness, strength, goodness, and life)*

11. Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father, that would be enough. **How does Jesus answer Philip?** *(Jesus answers, "Anyone who has seen me has*

seen the Father.” Jesus is saying that He and the Father are one. Jesus is the mirror of who the Father is.)

12. Read **verse 11. Where does Jesus’ power come from?** *(All of His power comes from God, and He does these things to show God’s love for us.)*

13. Not everyone has had the blessing of having a good father. But Jesus came to show us the character of the Father. He is gracious, good, kind, compassionate, loving, caring, tough and tender at the same time. He loves you as a father should! **What is the proof?** *(The cross- that He sent Jesus, His son, to die for us so that we can be in His family forever. And, He wants us to be a part of His family!)*

14. David Chadwick says, “Your identity is not what has happened to you. Your identity is in Jesus.” **What is your identity?** *(Have you ever been hurt or disappointed? Have you made mistakes in your life? That is not who you are. Jesus died to give you a new life, and the power of God can flow through you. If you let Jesus transform your life, He has amazing things to do in your life and through you! He wants us to proclaim Him to the world. He has made us an heir to everything He has. You are an adopted child, an heir of everything God in heaven owns! We are in His family! That is our true identity.)*

How to Communicate With the Father

15. In **verses 12-14**, Jesus tells us how to communicate with the Father. Jesus says that whoever believes in Him will do great works. What are some of the great works we can do?

- Feed the hungry
- Care for the sick
- Give compassion to those in need
- Miracles like healings. The power of God flows through those who believe in Jesus!

- Teach others about Jesus
- Help plant churches all over the world

16. This passage ends with a promise from Jesus: “And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

We can communicate with God through prayer. **When we pray and ask for anything in Jesus’ name, we are praying in His character.** We pray for the will of the Father. It may or not be exactly what He desires, but He does answer our prayers according to his will and character.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Choose one of these activities:

- Ask your family members to think of things that cause them to be “deeply troubled”- to worry and have anxiety. Have them write down the things that are causing them to be troubled. **Ask: “How can we find peace in Jesus?”** (*By choosing to trust Jesus and taking control of our thoughts. Talk about some ways to do this: prayer, listening to worship music, reading our Bible, taking a walk in nature-enjoying God’s creation, etc.*)
- Find a time when everyone can spend an hour on a special project. **Ask everyone in the family to draw a picture of what they think their heavenly home will be like.** Have crayons or markers and drawing paper on hand. Buy cardboard frames and frame their pictures to put in a special place in your home as a reminder that Jesus is preparing a place for all of us to be in heaven with Him!
- **Discuss:** This scripture stresses that Fathers are important. Our earthly fathers are important- God wants them to love us as He loves us. Give like he gives.

Care as he cares. Our heavenly Father wants what is best for us. How can fathers love their children well and emulate the heavenly Daddy?

PRAYER

“Dear Jesus, Thank You for coming to this earth to show us the character of our heavenly Father. Help us to do great works for You- please show us Your will for our lives. We want to show Your love to the world! In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

BOOK

Overcoming Anxiety - David Chadwick

www.amazon.com/Moving-Beyond-Anxiety-Practical-Strategies/dp/0736978461/