

He Will Be Called—3
The Father You've Always Wanted

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 NIV

אָבִי-עַד
Avi 'Ad

avi: father, source, protector, provider
'ad: everlasting, eternal, forever

“... Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. ...”

John 14:9 NIV

1. God is the Father who stays.

... God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” ⁶So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. ...” Hebrews 13:5-6 NIV

2. God is the Father who forgives.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5 NIV

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression ... You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. Micah 7:18 NIV

“I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.” Isaiah 43:25 NIV

3. God is the Father who runs toward you.

“... But while [the son] was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.” Luke 15:20 NIV

Your earthly father was never designed to carry what only your heavenly Father can.

“... But while [the son] was still a long way off, his father saw him ...” Luke 15:20 NIV

TALK IT OVER

Read **Isaiah 9:6**. What qualities make God a good Father? How does the reminder that God is the Everlasting Father affect the way you live, love, and serve others?

Sometimes it can be difficult to remember God is the Everlasting Father when our earthly fathers fall short. What Bible stories or testimonies do you turn to as a reminder that God is the Father who stays, forgives, and runs toward you?

What do you need from your heavenly Father today, this week, or in this season? Spend time sharing openly and then pray together.

Start the Bible Plan *The Christmas Story* using Plans With Friends: <https://go2.lc/christmas25>