

Our Father

LESSON 1: ABBA, DADDY

When you think of the word “father”, what image comes into your mind? Is it a loving father, a strict father, a troubled father, an absentee father or maybe some other thought? Many times, our concept of our heavenly Father is filtered by what we experienced from our earthly father. Jesus chose the first two words of The Lord’s Prayer for a reason, and they tell us a great deal.

Christianity is all about relationships. Jesus makes that clear in these first two words as to what the relationship is between us and the Creator God.

1. What kind of pronoun is the word “our”? What does this say to you about your relationship with God the Father? With Jesus Christ? See Matthew 12:48-50 and Hebrews 2:10-13.

2. Read 1 John 3:1, John 1:12-13, Matthew 7:11 and Romans 8:13-17. What do you learn in these verses?

3. Read Luke 15:11-32, the story of the Prodigal Son. What do you notice about the father? What do you notice about the younger, prodigal son? The older son? Has there been a time in your life when you have felt the powerful love of your heavenly Father drawing you back to Him?

The idea of our Creator God taking the role of “father” was not new in the time of Jesus. From the time of Moses, the ancient Hebrews were taught that the Creator, living God that they worshiped desired to have a loving paternal role with them.

4. Read Deuteronomy 1:29-31. Life can be hard and fearful. Has there been a time when you felt the Lord your God carrying you as a father carries his son? For more information see Psalm 89:26, Isaiah 63:16.

5. If you are one who were hurt and in conflict with your earthly father, there is restoration and healing. See Psalm 10:14, 17,18, Psalm 27:10 and Psalm 68:5-6a. Write out a prayer to your loving heavenly Father asking for healing from hurts caused by an earthly father that fell short in your life or write a prayer thanking your heavenly Father for an earthly father that fulfilled your every need.

6. Read Psalm 103:11-17. What do you learn about our heavenly Father in these verses? What do you learn about man? What is our hope?

APPLICATION: God is sovereign in his choice for our earthly father and mother. It is his decision into whose womb we are implanted and who will be our father. All parents fall short. They are human. Therefore, what lessons does God have for you in His choice for your parents.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, Abba, Daddy, we bow to your sovereignty in our lives. We know that love determines all your decisions. We trust in that love. Heal those who have been hurt by their earthly fathers. Fill the empty places in each of our hearts with the compassion, love, mercy, and grace that only you as our heavenly Father can do. We praise you for your infinite love for each of us. We lift this prayer in the name of Jesus, our older brother and Savior. Amen.