



Week 1 – *Elf, In Search of a Father*
Pastor Shannon Chapman

...700 years before the birth of Christ God foretold the world about an amazing baby boy that would be born.

Isaiah 9:6, For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- The picture of fatherhood is not all it should be today.
- For some hearing the word Father brings back all kinds of negative, painful feelings.

These negative feelings normally flow from three typical traits.

1. A father who is never satisfied.
2. A father who is always angry
3. A father who is seldom present

The overflow from these scenarios is many people grow up thinking they have to EARN love.

The bigger problem is we tend to carry this over into understanding our Heavenly Father.

During this Christmas season let's be reminded of three things about our Heavenly Father.

1. Our Heavenly Father is filled with compassion

- *Psalms 103:8, The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*
- There is nothing we can do to make God love us more than he already does.

2. Our Heavenly Father cares for us deeply.

- *Jeremiah 29:11, For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.*
- Your Heavenly Father cares for you and has a great plan for you.

3. Our Heavenly Father is always there for us.

- *Hebrews 13:5, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."*
- It's like a kid calling out for their daddy when they get hurt only to find out he is already holding them.

Of all the gifts you may receive this Christmas, the gift that God has for you is most vital for your life.

- Do you need Jesus to connect you to your Heavenly Father this morning?
- Will you receive this priceless gift?