**SERMON SERIES:** Unto Us: Everlasting Father

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# **Key Line**

Jesus is not a reflection of a father. He is the perfection of a father.

#### Introduction

Ask: What does it take for a gift to be "perfect"? As followers of Jesus, we would say that <u>He</u> is the perfect gift. Today we'll look at another reason why.

## **Seek the Word**

Read our theme verse: Isaiah 9:6. Encourage people to memorize this verse during this series. Today we're focusing on Jesus as "Everlasting Father."

What does "everlasting" mean? (eg, forever...always has been, always will be) How does John 1:1 relate? (eg, Christmas isn't the beginning of Jesus... He's been around forever)

### Talk About It

Now, "father": What are some characteristics of ... good fathers? (eg, protector, strength, rescuer) ... bad fathers? (eg, abusive, critical, absent)

Today's key line: "Jesus is not a reflection of a father, He is the perfection of a father." What does that mean? (eg, He's going to perfectly exemplify the good characteristics of fathers)
List as many of those characteristics as possible, along with verses to support them. Examples:

- I Peter 5:7 (caring)
- Psalm 103:13 (compassionate)
- Psalm 136: 1-9 (enduring love)
- Hebrews 13:5 (will never leave)

If you wish, read a portion of the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-24). What does this story tell us of Jesus as our Heavenly Father? (eg, doesn't give up on us, is constantly waiting for us to return to Him)

# **Application**

Which of these aspects of Jesus as your Father is most significant to you right now, and why? Who do you know who especially needs to know, or be reminded of, Jesus as Everlasting Father? (Could be a Christian or non-Christian) What role could you play in that?