

“The Fatherhood of God”

We honor all our Dads and men as we say, “Happy Father’s Day!” And we honor our Heavenly Father most of all! Referring to God as His Father was Jesus’ most common way to address the Almighty. In His model prayer Jesus taught us to also address God as “*our Father who art in heaven.*” So, let’s look at three pictures of fathers in the Bible which reveal something of the Fatherhood of God. And then, let’s apply those truths to our lives as men and Dads.

The first picture of *our Father who art in heaven* is that of a **willing Father**. Genesis 22 records the story of Abraham being willing to obey the command of God to sacrifice his son, Isaac. But when God beheld Abraham’s complete obedience, the angel of the Lord called to him to stop. This was a test, and Abraham passed. God was also willing to sacrifice His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. God went all the way and gave His only begotten Son so those who believe in Jesus will have everlasting life. Let us as Dads be willing to do what God has instructed us to do towards our children.

The second picture of *our Father who art in heaven* is that of a **wailing Father**. 2 Samuel 18 records the story of King David’s son, Absalom, plotting treason against his own Dad in a coup attempt to take the throne. David’s loyal soldiers stopped this uprising, and in the fighting, Absalom was killed. When David heard the news, he wept for his wayward son. God, too, still loves His children even when we are wayward and rebellious. Father God takes no delight in the destruction of the wicked. He loves us, and His heart is grieved when people refuse His love and rebel against His plan for their lives. Likewise, we never stop loving our children even though they may break our hearts and cause us much grief and sorrow. We grieve and talk to Jesus about our kids when they make wrong, destructive choices.

The third picture of *our Father who art in heaven* is that of a **waiting Father**. Jesus told the story of *the Prodigal Son* in Luke 15. The prodigal left his father’s house and went off on his own rebellious journey. But the waiting father never stopped hoping and looking for the son’s return. When the prodigal did come to his senses and return, even while he was still afar off, the father ran to embrace him and welcome him and restore him. The best place to be is in the Father’s house. If you’re there—remain and abide there. If you’ve never entered—come in and let today be your day of salvation. If you’ve been there but have left—return today and then stay there. Dads and men need the Lord’s help to be patient with our children, as well.

Discussion Guide/Action Steps

1. Think about your failures and successes in the many tests life throws your way. Thank God for His grace and forgiveness. Let your displeasure with the *test results* drive you toward greater reliance and dependance upon the Lord.

2. Never stop crying out to God in prayer for your children.
3. Never stop praying, hoping, watching for the prodigals to return to the Father's house.
4. Patiently wait for the promises of God to be fulfilled as they pertain to your children.