

Made for More Restored to the Father

Freedom is found as we trust the Father's heart (Matthew 6:9; John 14:6). Jesus came to restore us to our Heavenly Father, to see and know His goodness. When we want to know what kind of Father God really is, we do not look to our circumstances or even to our earthly father. Instead, we discover what kind of Father God really is when we look at Jesus, the cross, and the empty tomb. He is a Father who sings in pride over His children, who is slow to anger and abounding in love, who runs to His children to cover their shame, and who is always there and never leaves. We can yield to God and submit to His authority because we know that He is beyond good as a Father.

WATCH TESTIMONY VIDEO: WEEK 2

GET THINGS STARTED

What stood out to you from the testimony video? How can you personally relate?

What was your experience like with the *Purify Workbook* this past week? What did the Holy Spirit possibly reveal about your heart, about defending yourself, and about bringing hidden things to the light?

When you talk about God, or when you have time with Him, how do you typically see Him and refer to Him? Do you see Him as close and personal or more distant and majestic?

GO DEEPER

1. When the serpent tempts Adam and Eve in the garden in Genesis 3:3-5, what is he trying to convince them about God? What is the lie the serpent tells them that leads them into sin?
2. While God is only occasionally referred to as Father in the Old Testament, Jesus refers to God as Father 189 times in the four gospels of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). Why do you think there was such a dramatic shift in how God is seen and related to? What was Jesus accomplishing by addressing God as Father?
3. In John 14:8-9, how does Jesus respond to Philip when asked *Lord, show us the Father?* What can we know about God as Father from Jesus, the cross, and His resurrection?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. How would you describe your earthly father? Was he the *never-satisfied* dad, the *time-bomb* dad, the *emotionally-distant* dad, the *absent* dad, or something else? How has your relationship with your earthly father possibly affected (good or bad) your relationship with your Heavenly Father?
2. How easy, difficult, weird, or comfortable is it for you to see God as a Father? Do you relate to Him as a son or daughter to a Father, and why or why not? What do you think that relationship should look like?
3. Do you believe that God, as your Heavenly Father, is good? How have the *lies* that God is not good and is holding out on you influenced your view and relationship with Him?
4. How is seeing God as Father a necessary part of the freedom He has for you?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group to specifically pray for wisdom and revelation so that you can know God as Father (Ephesians 1:17). Ask Him to show you His goodness and for a greater measure of discernment for when you might be tempted to question that goodness. Ask Him also to show you more extensively why knowing Him as Father is so critical to experiencing and living in freedom. Pray for courage to continue in this freedom journey.

PURIFY WORKBOOK – FOR THIS WEEK

Session 2: True Character of Father God