



A.K.A. BECOMING WHO YOU REALLY ARE

Sons and Daughters

Week 1

1 of 5

February 7, 2016

Icebreaker: What are some things you have exclusively as a result of your relationship with your parents?

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 1 John 3:1

When asked what it means to be a Christian, one prominent evangelical author and theologian said, a Christian is one who looks to God as Father. Yet practically speaking, many people would call themselves Christians but do not look to God as Father. At least, they do not look to God as Father in a way that has changed their lives.

“Father” is not a rote title we give to God. It speaks to the personal and deep relationship we have with God as His children. God is a loving Father, and He is fatherly in His care toward us. Many who have a strained relationship with their own fathers have trouble accepting God as Father. Unlike an earthly father, God is a perfect Father. He always deals bountifully with His children. He is perfect in love, devotion, and judgment. He will never lead us astray or into anything that would harm us.

The primary identifying factor John takes as evidence that God is our Father is the love He has lavished on us. John saw this primarily through Jesus’ relationship with God. John lived every day with Jesus and saw, better than most, the relationship God had with Jesus. Through Jesus, God now offers the same relationship to us. Because of Jesus, God desires to know you as a son and daughter.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight’s message, what stood out to you?

Dwight said I am forgiven, I am accepted, I am complete. Which of these do you have the hardest time believing? Why?

Whatever happens in your life it will never change God’s love for you; it just changes what you talk about. (Agree or disagree? Why?)

What does it mean to be loved by God as Father?

When did you first understand that God has accepted you as His child?

If we are the sons and daughters of God, what do we stand to inherit from Him?

What are some things your earthly father does for you? What are some things your heavenly Father does for you?

LOOK IT OVER >>>

How can we encourage one another to live as a child of God?

How is living as a child of God different than choosing to live as an orphan?

In 1 John 3:1, John seemed to think being a child of God was worthy of celebrating. Do you? Why or why not?

Should we expect non-believers we know to honor our Father as we do? How can the honor and esteem in which you hold God lead others to see how important it is to have a relationship with Him?

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together as a group:

1. Encourage one another this week as you work through all the practical benefits of what it means to have been adopted into God's family. Make a list of all the things we now have since we are God's children. As the week goes on, share with one or two people what you are learning about God as Father.
2. Pray to your Father in heaven and ask that He would lavish His fatherly affection upon you. Ask that you would be able to receive it with total and complete trust. Thank God for taking the initiative to see you in Christ, and praise Him for the relationship you have through Christ.

EVALUATION/ACTION

I look to God as Father.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

FURTHER STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out these verses:

- Romans 8
- Galatians 4:4-7
- John 1:12
- Matthew 6:9
- Matthew 7:11

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to the next small group meeting)