



FATHERHOOD

#NPDad

Week 1

1 of 1

June 19, 2016

Bottom Line: God is a person, not a power. God is a personal God. He has the ability to have a relationship with us, and He created you with the ability to have a relationship with Him. God wants to be a Father for you. God wants to make up to us for anything that we lacked in our human experience. Discovering the wonderful heart of our perfect heavenly Father heals our wounds. He is the best Father we can ever imagine.

Icebreaker: What is your favorite memory of your father or a father figure?

Key Verse: For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." Romans 8:15

If you have ever been a parent of young children, remember back to when you came home after a long day away from your children. What did they do? They probably ran to you with all the strength, speed, and affection their little bodies could muster. Even if you have not been a parent, you can imagine this picture in your head. Children are unashamed in their affection for their parents. This is the picture that Paul is painting for us in Romans 8.

Some have called Romans 8 the Mount Everest of biblical truth. It is not by accident that right in the middle of its ascent to the summit of truth, Paul speaks to the incredible relationship with God we have been given through the redemption of Jesus. The Spirit working in our lives calls us to run to God with the same eagerness and fervor as a small child who runs with unbridled joy toward a parent they have missed all day.

We are not timid and afraid of our Father, but joyful and enthusiastic to spend time with Him. He is a perfect and faultless Father. We are sons of the living God who has chosen to relate to us and express Himself primarily as a Father. When we come to an understanding of the gentle and loving nature of our Father, we will always be eager to run home to Him.

This God desires to love you like a Father, to treat you as a beloved child, and lead you by the hand. Today, as we celebrate fathers and Christian fatherhood, remember first your heavenly Father.

THINK IT OVER >>>

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

Dwight said that 1) God is a good Father: He is close, He cares, He is consistent, and He disciplines.
2) God is a great Father: He is wise and competent.
3) God is a generous Father:

Where do you struggle in seeing God as your Father?

Jesus referred to God as Father more than 150 times. Why do you think He used this as the most common designation?

What legal ties to a parent does an adopted child have? What does that tell you about the relationship you have with God through Christ?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

How does having God as a perfect Father free you to be an imperfect parent?

How has your relationship with your own Father, good or bad, influenced the way you see God as Father?

For better or worse, our parents shape us, and, by extension, shape our view of God. Though God is a perfect Father, we have imperfect parents. Is there anything you need to forgive your parents for?

Have you accepted and received God as your Father? What are you missing if you don't embrace this relationship?

What do you gain from seeing God as Father that you might not get seeing Him as Almighty, Creator, or Judge?

NEXT STEPS

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

1. Together, praise God for being a perfect Father and for always being there for you. Affirm your love for Him and devotion to Him. Thank Him for the ability to approach Him and rest in Him and be protected by Him. Thank God for all the faithful, God-seeking earthly fathers at NewPointe. Pray for them as they seek to parent in a way that reflects the goodness of their Father in heaven.
2. Together, list all the things we learn about God through seeing Him as our Father that we would have never known or seen otherwise. Use this list in your prayers and personal worship of God this week.

EVALUATION/ACTION **Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ**

Bottom Line: God is a personal God. He created us with the ability to have a relationship with Him.

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:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: Psalm 103:15

Day 2: 1 Peter 5:7

Day 3: James 1:17

Day 4: Ephesians 3:20-21

Day 5: 2 Timothy 2:13

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)