



Session 2 | Participants Guide

WHO GOD IS & WHO WE ARE

Review Session 1

- What things came out of last week's session that have made a difference to you this week?
- Have you discovered more about yourselves and how Father God loves to speak to you and relate to you? Remember: thinking, feeling, seeing, hearing. Any new ways discovered?
- What did some contemplation moments look like for anyone?

Testimony or story. Discuss what was shared, any questions etc. Pray for one another and encourage each other.

Worship time will come a bit later in this session.

Session 2 Aims

- To understand our relationship with God as our Father. How Jesus as the son of God models this to us and how Holy Spirit helps to reveal the heart of Father God towards us.
- To understand the character and nature of God - his goodness and his many attributes.
- If God is our Father, that means we are his children - sons and daughters of the King. How does our understanding of that help us as we now choose to live as disciples of Jesus?

INTRODUCTION

God is our Father. As disciples of Jesus, we constantly look to him to be our role model. We study his words, his actions and his teaching and we choose to become more like Jesus in all **we think, do or say**. So this of course means that if Jesus models to us a relationship with God as his Father and teaches us about this, then this should be our starting point too in our relationship with Father God.

The Jewish nation at the time of Jesus had little teaching or understanding of this and had forgotten how much God loved them and wanted a relationship with them. It was there in

some of the teachings of the prophets and ancient scriptures that they had access to but they had become trapped by the Pharisees (religious leaders of the Jews) and Rabbis (teachers in the temple) into legalistic living. It was only the religious leaders that were considered holy and righteous enough to be in the presence of God.

Into this world stepped Jesus and he turned this way of thinking and being, the right way up again!! (although to the Jews and their leaders, this way of thinking would have felt all upside down!). The religious leaders hated Jesus! He was a big threat to this religious world they had created which kept them rich and safe. He was leading the Jewish nation away from this religious, law centred lifestyle. He spoke about God as His Father, himself being the Son of God and the Jewish religious leaders as a 'brood of vipers', hypocrites and from the devil. He had to go!! And all this ultimately led to his crucifixion.

PART ONE - God is our Father!

When we receive Jesus, we receive the Father into our lives too and we can have a close and intimate relationship with Him. The relationship that Father God wanted to have with his children which began in the Garden of Eden, has been completely restored through Jesus, before Jesus it could only come about through sacrifice and being without fault. Jesus has paid the sacrificial price in full and if we love and accept Jesus, we now have an open door to a relationship with God as our Father. Just like Jesus.



What have we noticed about Jesus and his relationship with his Father? Bible stories or things we know Jesus shows us (or models) about how we can live deeply connected to Father God? .

- How Jesus spoke to God - Abba Father - intimate language - Pappa - Daddy
- Obedience - 'I only do what I see the Father doing'
- Time away, talking to his Father. He called his disciples to join him sometimes.
- A life of prayer and a prayer model. 'Our Father'
- Wanted everything he did to be for God's glory (Lazarus)
- Understood Father's plan for him - prayer before death 'do what you want not what I want'
- Felt the loss of relationship with Father on the cross
- Cried out for forgiveness for those that crucified him - he knew the love Father had for them.
- Knew that God knew everything and he didn't. - when Jesus was coming back again.
- Had Father's approval (baptism)
- He knew his Father had sent him - he knew his mission and his purpose. All from his Father.

- He knew his Father would meet his every need - 'do not worry about anything', (Matthew 6)
- Share any personal experiences.

Understanding the character and nature of God that makes him such a good Father to us.

The Heart of the Father towards his children....

The Prodigal Son - Luke 15: 11-32

Withholds nothing (He even gave him something that he knew would cause the son to experience difficulty - in his wisdom the father knew that this eventually would cause discipline, learning and repentance)

Treats fairly

Waits patiently and looks out for us

Allows us the freedom to choose

Is compassionate and emotional over us

Accepts our 'sorry' & forgives freely

Ignores the lies we speak over ourselves

Affirms our identity

Lavishes good things on us

Extravagantly celebrates over us

Speaks highly of us

The Good Shepherd - Psalm 23

He is GOOD

He knows us and cares for us

We lack nothing as He provides us with everything

He gives rich provision

Gives us rest

He refreshes us

Leads and guides us

Wipes out fear in our hearts

Protects us and defends us

Fights for us

Comforts us

Acknowledges and affirms us before our enemies

Celebrates us

He prepares a banquet in recognition of our royalty

In difficult times he wants us to thrive

He anoints us - claims us as His - gives us authority


Fills us with joy

His goodness and mercy is constant in our lives
He will always be with us

 **Is God a good Father? Why? What do you need from your Father today?**


PART TWO - We are his children!

Living from approval not for approval as a child of God. This is one of our five kingdom values at GodFirst,


 **What does this phrase mean personally to us? Have we found at times in our lives that we seek approval a lot and even from the wrong places? Do we know that Father God completely approves of us? Do we know that we are significant!?**

[Watch and listen to the following....](#)

[A Letter From God](#)

 **How does that letter make us feel about ourselves and about our heavenly Father? Did we know that all this is in the bible and it's all about how Father God feels about us and how He longs for us to feel about Him?**

OUR RESPONSE to the Father's love for us....

 **Discuss** the following verses. What do they mean to everyone in the room?

Romans 8: 14-17 says this....

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.
(Roms 8 14-17)

When the desire of our heart is to experience God's love, He is so kind that this simple prayer can start us off on a journey into love - a journey into His heart.

Pray the following prayer together.

“Father, I want to know and experience your love in my heart. Father, would you come and take down the walls I've used to protect myself and show me your love. Would you show me what holds me back from being loved by you.”

“Holy Spirit, would you come and reveal the Father's love to me?”

[NEW SEASON - Instrumental Soaking worship Music + Prayer worship music](#)

WORSHIP

[Good Good Father w/ Lyrics \(Chris Tomlin\)](#)

PART THREE - Our Inheritance as a Child of God.

The previous verse we read from Romans makes an incredible statement!

‘Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ...’

Has anyone ever received an Inheritance? Was it something you wanted, and made a difference to your life? ([Rhetorical](#)) Well our inheritance as children of God is definitely something we want and need and will make a vast difference to our lives both now and in eternity.....here are just a few of the things we inherit as children of God.

Think of everything that Jesus had access to, all that he could do and how he lived, and we've got it! What Jesus did, we can do and more! (John 14 v 12).

Eternal Life

Access to the throne room of the King

Can be generous as we rely on our Father's provision for us

We have no fear or condemnation

Authority in the spiritual realm - we are significant & have a significant role God's kingdom

A seat with Jesus in heaven

A heavenly mansion

Keys of the Kingdom

We can loose and bind

Access all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we bear spiritual fruit in our lives

Freedom

Ability to move in the supernatural and the miraculous

Command the elements
Talk to the Father
Access to heavenly riches
Can bring light into darkness, Speak truth, Healing
Have love and compassion, Victorious living
Wisdom, Bring Hope, Fruits of the Spirit
We have fullness of life and pleasures for evermore
Renewal of minds
Empowered to change
Any others??



Did we know that we have access to all of the above as a child of God? Do we understand how significant we are to God and to his kingdom on earth?

Freedom in Christ cards - 'My Father God is', 'Who I Am in Christ' & 'Twenty Cans of Success'. Look at the truths for a minute or two. Which ones do we believe or find hard to recognise in ourselves. Make a note of those ones.

The truths that we find hard to believe.....

"When it comes to the truth of God's word - it is true even if it doesn't feel true!"

Freedom in Christ

It can take time for our heart to align itself to what we know is true especially if it doesn't feel like it's true. We could call this **'The 18 inch Journey'** - it's approximately 18 inches from your brain to your heart! Take time this week to say these truths that are meant for us as the children of God - out loud - every day! Write them on post-it notes, stick them on mirrors, fridges, anywhere that will remind you of them as much as possible.

OUR RESPONSE & APPLICATION

- Come back next week and share if you have noticed any change in what you are choosing to believe. Have any of the truths made that important 18-inch journey from head to heart? Have our feelings/emotions aligned themselves to the truths in God's word about who **HE IS** and who **WE ARE**?

Finish with a time of celebration.

[**Goodness Of God \(Lyrics\) ~ Bethel Music**](#)