

God our Father – Growth Group Study
6/9/2020 – John Malcolm

What do you value most in your relationship with members of your family?

What actions, activities or attitudes strengthen good relationships?

Read Matthew 6:9 & John 14:2–3

What does it mean to you that our connection with God is described in terms of a *relationship* with our heavenly *Father*?

What hope does it give you to know Jesus is preparing a place/room for you *in* his father's house?

Read Exodus 33:14-20, Psalm 27:7-9 & 63:1

Why do you think Moses asked to see God's glory?

What moves you to seek God?

Read Exodus 34:6–7

John suggested that although God did not allow Moses to see his face, he did reveal his heart. How is the nature of God's heart revealed here?

In our modern world there are renewed calls for justice. We have heard some of these voices recently in the trial of the Christchurch terrorist.

What is the place of judgement in bringing justice?

How can we reconcile the ideas of God maintaining love to thousands, yet punishing children for the sin of their fathers? (Exodus 20 5, Ezekiel 18.20)

Can you think of examples of how the sin of one generation impacts the lives of following generations? (Lasting legacy of war, crime, wrong decisions, gambling ...)

Read Deuteronomy 32:6 & Jeremiah 3:19

The Old Testament often refers to the people of Israel as God's children but seldom refers to God as Father – why do you think this is?

Read Mark 14:36, John 17:20-26 & Romans 8:15–16

The fatherhood of God is richly developed in the New Testament – why do you think this is?

What does it mean to you personally, or to us as a church, that we can call God “Abba”? (Abba is not baby babble, but a respectful word used in a family relationship).

Some people may not believe in God or, if God does exist, as a distant God. How would you explain the quality of this relationship to someone who had never thought of God as Father?

Further Study: on generational judgement.

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/does-god-visit-the-sins-of-the-fathers-on-the-children>

<https://ca.thegospelcoalition.org/columns/detrinitate/does-god-punish-sons-for-the-sins-of-their-fathers/>