

Our Father

The Father's Family

The Bible doesn't seek to prove the existence of God, it simply states "God" with the supposition that He exists and is the center of ALL Things.

Names of God

Each of these names came out of their encounter with God. And God gladly accepts their description of who He is.

But how does God describe and introduce Himself? How does He want to be known?

When he met Moses – he introduced himself as
“I am who I am”.

Then when he appeared to Moses on the mount Sinai, he gave an introduction of who He is (the character of God) ““The LORD, the LORD, **the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness**, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.”

When Jesus introduced God, he called Him

Father

Jesus didn't die on the cross to give us a relationship with the Father.

He died on the cross to give us

His Relationship with the Father.

Context

David in his old age – probably the final years of his life, remembering all of his past – failures, successes and pains and was at a place of being extremely grateful to God.

His reflection at the end of this journey has led to a deeper and wider revelation of who the God the Father is.

Psalms 103 is considered as one of the highest peak of all Psalms

Psalms 103

Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Praise the LORD, my soul, and **forget not all his benefits** who **forgives** all your sins and **heals** all your diseases, who **redeems** your life from the pit and **crowns** you with love and compassion, who **satisfies** your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

The LORD is **compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.**

He **will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger** forever; he **does not treat us as our sins deserve** or **repay us according to our iniquities.**

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD **has compassion** on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, **he remembers** that we are dust. The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

But from everlasting to everlasting **the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children**— with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts. The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.

Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.

Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the LORD, my soul.

The LORD is **compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.**

He **will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.**

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

He will not always accuse nor will he harbor
his anger forever

he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
(Psalm 103: 10)

Lost And Found

Lost And Found

Context

Jesus hanging out with tax collectors and sinner and the Pharisees and teachers of the law were criticizing Jesus for these relationships.

Lost And Found

Context

Jesus uses the story of the lost son to reveal to us the shocking truth about God our Father. This is about who the Father is, what He is actually like, the way He thinks, how he thinks, the way he acts towards us and what makes him run.

Jesus painted a picture of the Father standing on the balcony of heaven, watching, and searching the horizon for the return of His son.

And once He sees him, the Father started running. He embraced and commanded a great party to be thrown for the lost son.

V20 - “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and **kissed** (*Kataphileo*) him.

v21-24 The son started his speech: ‘Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.’ **But the father wasn’t listening.** He was calling to the servants, ‘Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a grain-fed heifer and roast it. We’re going to feast! We’re going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!’ And they began to have a wonderful time.

This son, who has squandered away all his
wealth on all wrong choices in life,
encountered a truth

**He has a home, he has a Father and he has
an identity that he CANNOT squander**

Jesus' version of God is of an amazing Father who steadfastly, persistently and unswervingly remains exactly who He is, **Father**, even and especially when His sons become rebellious, twisted and wayward.

he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
(Psalm 103: 10)

Do you know this Father?

Not just in your head but in your heart?

When you were in crisis or when things didn't turn out the way you had prayed, what conclusions do you make about God or about yourself?

Do you think God enjoys having you in his creation?

Do you have difficulty in believing Jesus' Father?

How has your relationship with your parents shaped how you view God? In what ways are your parents like and unlike the Father Jesus portrays?

Do you agree or disagree with this statement: “The Father’s forgiveness is prior to your faith and repentance?” Why? In what ways are you proud of Jesus’ Father? In what ways is he proud of you? How do you hide from the Father? What do you want most from the Father?

How has your failure to let the Father love you affected your marriage, family and relationship with close friends?

What is the relationship between anxiety and the Father's acceptance?

In what ways are you disappointed with the Father?

Why do people seem to enjoy the mistakes or failure of others?

Which of the two, the fear of punishment or the love of the father changes people's hearts?

In what ways would you change if you let the Father love you?

Why are people so prone to believe that they are not acceptable to the Father?

To be rejected by God and abandoned is the greatest fear of the human heart. Why would the Father abandon you?

Why does the Father love you?

If you could hear the Father speak your name right now, what message would be in his voice?

Father **heart** of God Seminar

Take us deeper into looking at who the Father is and identifying our misconceptions. Discover the scales in our hearts that have blocked us from knowing the Father. To know effects of our imperfect view of God on our marriages, family and close friends.

A Community attractive to God

Helps us understand what is God the Father looking for in our Church family. What attracts him?

Creates an environment where we experience God's way of honoring one another

Make room for the family to embrace brokenness and humility

Brings us to a revelation of the mercies of God and to try to make room for the unreached world.

Our Father

Do you know God the Father in your heart? Does your heart beat with a deep gratitude and love for Him when you consider how He loves you?

How do you know that you love God?