



Abba

FATHER


In response to their request, Jesus teaches the disciples how to pray. (Luke 11:1ff) He starts by teaching them how God wants to be addressed. “*And He said to them, ‘When you pray say, ‘Father...’*”. We have become so familiar with the Lord’s prayer, that it no longer amazes us that God invites us to come to Him as children, and simply say “Father.” The context of our relationship with the creator of the universe is family—and we are his much loved children. What has the Bible to teach us about this privileged relationship that is ours?

**Read Ephesians 1:3-6. Mark every references to God with a  and every mention of “we / us” with a  Make a list of all you learn about God and what He has done for us.**

*When did God choose us? And what did he choose for? How has that been made possible?*

*What did he predestine us for and how did he do it?*



*What motivated Him to make us His children?*

**Read Galatians 4:4-7. Mark every references to “we / us/ you” with a  and references to the God with a **

*What did God do in order to adopt us as His children?*

*What role does Spirit of His Son play?*

*What intimacy / privileges do we possess as children of God?*

**Read 1 John 3:1-3 Mark every references to God with a  and every mention of “we / us” with a **

*What was God’s motivation for making us His children?*

*What is His ultimate purpose and goal for us?*

*How should knowing all we have studied impact how we live?*

*What does it mean for us to be parented by God?*

*What kind of Father is He, and how do we walk day by day in the reality of being a child of God?*

### **Ephesians 1:3-6**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

### **Galatians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

### **1 John 3:1-3**

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.

### **Psalm 103: 13-14**

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.  
<sup>14</sup> For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

### **Proverbs 3:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, <sup>12</sup> for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

### **Hebrews 12: 10b—11**

..he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup> For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

### **Hebrews 5:7-8**

<sup>7</sup> In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. <sup>8</sup> Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.

### **Matthew 6:6-8, 31-33**

<sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>7</sup> "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.


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<sup>31</sup> Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

**Spend this week meditating on LUKE 15:11-32. Jesus is telling this story and the key figure in it is the father. He has two very different sons. Think about each of them, and note how the father responds to them individually. What is in His heart for his sons?**

**Which son is most like you? What do you better understand about God as our Father?**

**Bring it to God in prayer.**

**READ the following Scriptures, and in each one mark the Lord with a  then answer the questions to discover different truths about being parented by God.**

### **PSALM 103:13-14**

*How does the Lord feel about us? What does he understand?*

*Compassion—strong's 7355—to love deeply, to have tender affection.*

*What does this tell us about His expectations from us?*

### **PROVERBS 3:11-12, HEBREWS 12:10B-11; 5:7-8**

*What is part of God showing His love for us?*

*Discipline—strong's 3809—to train and educate, whatever in adults that cultivates the soul, esp. by correcting mistakes and curbing passions.*

*What is the outcome of Gods discipline?*

*What is the "peaceable fruit of righteousness.?"*

*How does Jesus teach us from his relationship with God?*

### **MATTHEW 6:6-8**

*In v 6 how is prayer being described?*

*What is in our Father's heart as He listens?*

*V7-8 What difference does it make to our words knowing that our Father already knows what we need?*

### **Matthew 6:31-33**

*What daily anxieties govern our lives?*

*What concerns is God attentive to, and how should that impact our priorities?*

***Knowing and understanding the Fatherhood of God should change us.***

