

2016: Week 25

Sunday, June 19th 2016

"Father's Day"

Galatians 4:6

"⁶Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'" (NASB)

Sunday was Father's Day, and in the sermon, John highlighted several important roles a father possesses in the life of his children. Regardless of whether you've had a good, bad, or ugly experience with you earthly father, Scripture reminds us that if you have trusted in Christ as your Savior, the Lord God is *your* heavenly Father. He is not a distant and stoic personality, but rather a Father who invites you to intimately call Him, "Abba" or "Daddy"! Even if you've already done so, take some time this week to thank you earthly father for the provisions and sacrifices he makes for you. In a similar fashion, take some time thanking your heavenly Father for the ultimate sacrifice He made for you: sending His beloved Son to die in *your place!*

1. READ Proverbs 3:12

- What are two important roles a father possesses as seen from this passage?
- John mentioned the purpose or correcting, or disciplining, is to teach. How might this change your perspective of discipline: a) as a parent enforcing discipline AND b) as a son/daughter receiving discipline?
- When you hear the phrase "a father delights in his children", what comes to mind?

As a dad, how can you demonstrate "delighting in your children" to them?

As a child, can you recall something your father specifically did or said to you that let you know that he "delighted in you"? If so, tell him! Also tell him how that made you feel.

2. READ Matthew 7:7-11

- In this part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He focuses on how one should pray. How does He say we should pray?
- How is God's answering of our prayers likened to an earthly father responding to his child? Does this mean that God will always give us what we ask? How does this change the way you view God when you pray?

3. READ Luke 15:11-32

- We've probably all heard the story of the prodigal son numerous times, but this story should never get old. Praise God that He is like the compassionate father in this story!
- Based on this text, how would you describe the father in this account when he receives his lost son?
- How would you describe the father in this account based upon his dealings with the unhappy older son? What part of God's character might this portray?
- How does this account encourage you as it relates to God's desire and ability to forgive you?

FAMILY PRAYER: Thank the Lord for being such a loving and gracious Heavenly Father. Thank Him for delighting in you, giving to you, and readily forgiving you... even when you don't deserve it.