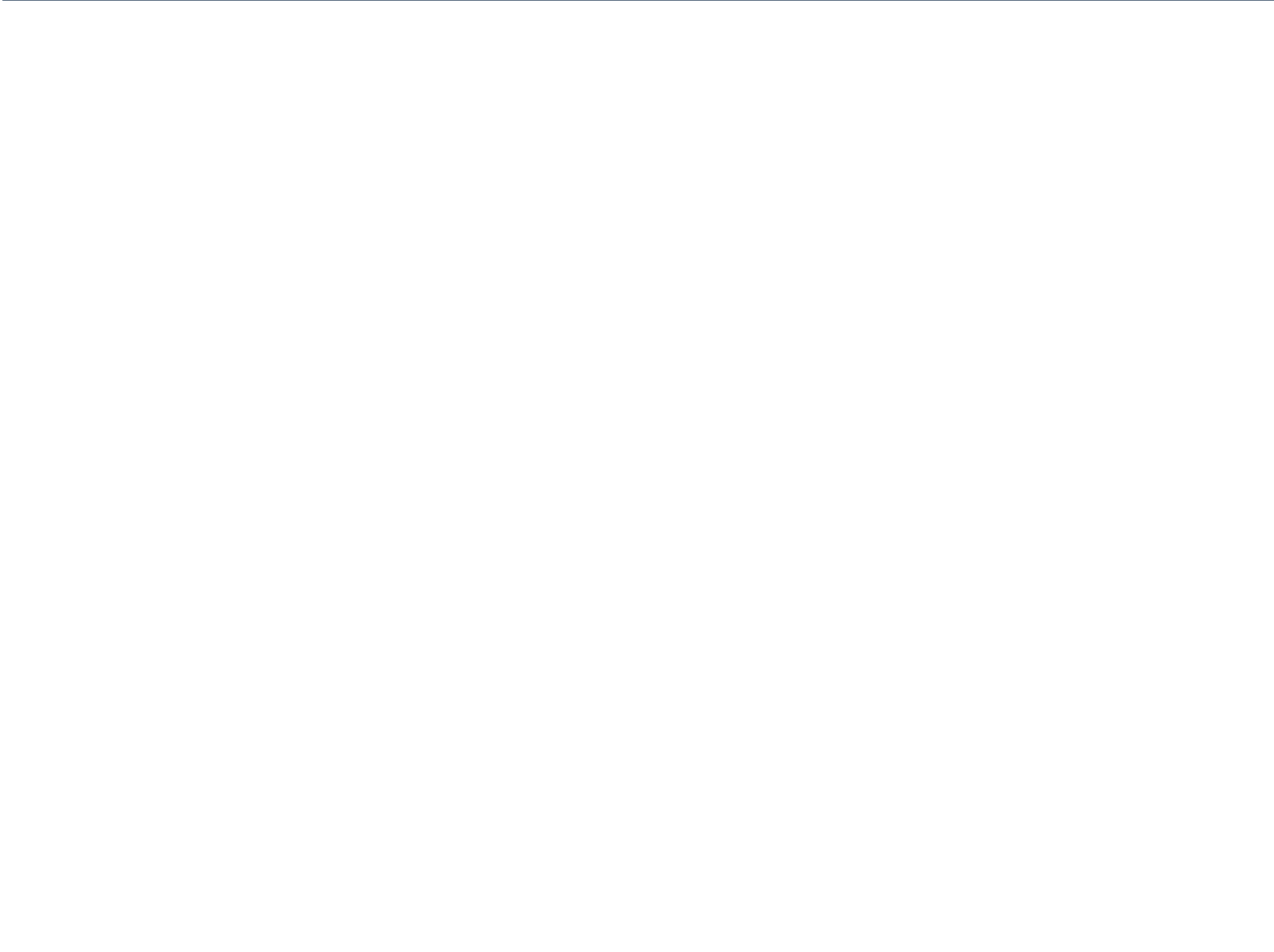




AN EIGHT-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

FATHER

A Biblical Exploration of Fatherhood

God as Father • human experience • biblical models • reflecting the Father's character

A study for fathers, sons and daughters, mentors, spiritual parents,
and anyone learning to receive and reflect the love of God.

Study Outline

Weeks 1-4 establish the biblical vision of fatherhood, name the wounds caused when fathers fail, and turn to Jesus' picture of a restoring Father.

WEEK	TOPIC	KEY SCRIPTURES	CENTRAL IDEA
1	What Is a Father? The biblical picture of fatherhood	Psalm 103:8-14; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Proverbs 3:11-12	Scripture associates good fatherhood with love, compassion, guidance, presence, teaching, and appropriate correction - not merely authority.
2	God Our Father What Jesus teaches us about God	Matthew 6:5-13, 25-34; Matthew 7:7-11	Jesus repeatedly calls God 'Father.' Our understanding of fatherhood begins not with our earthly fathers, but with the character of God.
3	When Fathers Fail The Bible's surprisingly dysfunctional dads	Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-41; 2 Samuel 13:1-22	Isaac, Jacob, David, and other biblical fathers make serious mistakes. Scripture does not romanticize families. Explore favoritism, passivity, absence, and the damage fathers can cause - and what we can learn from their failures.
4	The Father Who Runs Jesus' picture of a father's love	Luke 15:11-32	The Prodigal Son may be even more a story about an extraordinary father. Study a father who gives freedom, experiences rejection, watches, waits, runs, embraces, forgives, and restores.

Study Outline

Weeks 5-8 move toward practice: blessing, releasing, mentoring beyond biology, and becoming people who reflect the Father's character.

WEEK	TOPIC	KEY SCRIPTURES	CENTRAL IDEA
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5	Fathers Who Bless The power of affirmation	Genesis 27:26-40; Genesis 48:8-20; Mark 1:9-11	Biblical fathers pronounced blessings over their children. At Jesus' baptism, the Father declares, 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.' Explore our need to hear - and give - words of identity, love, and affirmation.
6	Fathers Who Let Go Raising children who eventually leave	Genesis 22:1-18; Luke 2:41-52; Ephesians 6:1-4	Healthy fatherhood changes as children mature. Explore the tension between protecting, guiding, and eventually releasing children to become the people God created them to be.
7	Fatherhood Beyond Biology Spiritual fathers and chosen family	1 Corinthians 4:14-17; 1 Timothy 1:1-5; 2 Timothy 1:1-7; Mark 3:31-35	Paul calls Timothy his 'true son in the faith.' Scripture expands family beyond biology. Men can provide mentoring, encouragement, wisdom, and spiritual fatherhood whether or not they have biological children.
8	Becoming Like the Father Reflecting God's character	Ephesians 5:1-2; Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 4:4-7; 1 John 3:1-3	The ultimate goal is not simply becoming better fathers; it is becoming more like our Father. As God's children, we learn to reflect God's generosity, compassion, forgiveness, faithfulness, and love to others.

The Study's Emotional Arc

The series is designed to move from **God as Father**, through our experiences of human fathers and biblical models of fatherhood, toward becoming people who reflect the Father's character. This keeps the study relevant to people who are fathers, had difficult fathers, never knew their fathers, or are not parents themselves.

1	What is a father?	Begin with Scripture's language of compassion, guidance, presence, teaching, and loving correction.
2	What is God like as Father?	Let Jesus, rather than our family history, define the character of God.

3	What if my father wasn't like that?	Acknowledge failure and pain honestly, with the Bible's own unsentimental family stories.
4-7	What does healthy fatherhood do?	Explore welcome, blessing, release, mentoring, chosen family, and spiritual formation.
8	How can I become more like the Father?	Turn the study outward: receive God's love and reflect it through generosity, compassion, forgiveness, faithfulness, and love.
WHY “WHEN FATHERS FAIL” BELONGS EARLY		Without this week, a fatherhood study can unintentionally become sentimental or painful for people whose experience with their father was abandonment, abuse, addiction, emotional distance, or simply disappointment. The Bible gives us room to acknowledge that reality while still presenting God as a different kind of Father.

“The ultimate goal is not simply becoming better fathers; it is becoming more like our Father.”