

# GOOD GOOD FATHER

## THIS STUDY GUIDE...

...will help us turn what God is saying to us into action steps. The questions and scriptures are here to help us take our "Next Steps." Have a great discussion!

## PRAYER & ICEBREAKER

**If you had to describe God using only ONE word, what word would you use and why? Share with your group.**

## READ:

There are so many different words that can be used to describe God. We all have our own personal understanding of who He is. Unfortunately, some people have a severe *misconception* of Him. Some people see God as distant and far away, while some people view God as unkind, harsh, and strict. Others perceive God as uncaring, unforgiving, uninterested, and even flaky! Movies, songs, religious rituals, and other branches of today's pop culture play a large role in developing how people view God. However, the truth is that most people get their image of God from their earthly father. For some, their father was around much or always working. For others, their earthly father was very harsh and mean. The way our dad treated us is the way many of us tend to think of God. It's important that we are careful not to let that image taint the picture of who our heavenly Father truly is!

## DISCUSSION

**Have you ever had an inaccurate view of what God is like? What made you view Him in that way? Share with your group.**

## READ:

Many people only view God as an almighty being sitting high on His throne up in the highest heavens. Although He is in fact an almighty and powerful God, the truth is that God is also a loving and caring Father. Since God is a Father, we know that He is a person and not just a power source of energy. We can relate to Him, be close to Him, talk to Him, and have a relationship with Him. In fact, Jesus described to us how we should address and relate to God. Read the scripture below:

*"This is how you should pray, 'Our Father in heaven.'" (Matthew 6:9)*

God wants us to think of Him as a Father. Jesus said that when we talk to God, we should talk to Him like we would talk to a *loving* father, and *caring* dad.

## DISCUSSION

Have you ever had a difficult/uncomfortable time talking to your parent(s) about something? Why? Share with your group.

## READ:

The idea of calling God "father" or "dad" may be a bit uncomfortable for some. The great thing about that is *that's* the way God wants us to have a relationship with Him. He doesn't care to hear the big spiritual words and theological terms. God delights when His children talk to Him heart to heart.

When we come to the understanding that God is a loving and caring father, we'll begin to see that He is also a *helping* father. A father is someone that helps, encourages, and lifts you up when you're down. One of God's names in Hebrew is "Eliezer" which literally means helper. Jesus showed us how God is a helpful father. Read below:

*"The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." (John 14:26)*

## DISCUSSION

Can you think of a time that God helped you overcome a challenge or struggle? How did He help you through that? Share with your group.

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Through Jesus, we've learned that God, the omnipotent and omnipresent almighty being in heaven has another side to Him. He is indeed a good, loving, caring, helping, and forgiving *father*. He intimately cares for us, He wants to help us in our greatest times of need, and He has already forgiven us for every sin that we have and ever will commit. The important part to learn this is reflecting this new understanding of who God is in how we relate to Him.

This week, commit to doing the following:

- When praying to God, imagine Him as a father or "daddy" figure. Try to develop a habit of talking to Him the way a child speaks to their parent.
- Think of ONE person you know who may have an inaccurate understanding of who God is. Pray that this person would one day come to know God as a good and loving Father, and how you might be able to help them toward that.