

FIREPOWER

ENCOUNTERING THE HOLY SPIRIT

2. Knowing God as Father

ICEBREAKER

If this is a new group or there are new people, please take a moment to **introduce yourselves**.

To start off your small group, briefly share your response to the following question:

Did you have a family pet (s) as a kid? Tell us about them!

Share with your group.



WHAT TO EXPECT



Let's get a big picture of what we'll be learning today...

We are part of God's family if we believe in His Son Jesus! You might have a pet that you consider part of the family, but God doesn't just adopt us like a pet. He brings us into His family with full rights as heirs. You might not know it and you may not always feel it. But it's true! And the Holy Spirit helps us know it. In this session, we will learn more about how the Holy Spirit's primary job is to pour out the love of God so that we begin to know Him as our Abba Father.

TIPS TO A SUCCESSFUL SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Tip: START & FINISH ON TIME. Doing this will show your small group you value their time.

Tip: NO GUILT, NO SHAME. This series is not meant to guilt or shame anyone into doing anything.

ONLINE Tip: ZOOM &/OR IN PERSON GATHERING. If you're meeting together on Zoom, familiarize yourself with the Zoom features on your electronic device. It is helpful for everyone to know where the mute button is located. Ask the attendees to self-mute to avoid environmental noise when someone else is talking & sharing. Doing this will help with the flow of your SG discussion time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1.) When Jesus talked about God, what words did He use? Take a look at the following verse, where He teaches us to tell others about God, and see if you notice it:

So wherever you go, make disciples of all nations: Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19 (GWT)

Jesus could have called Him "God" or even "Jehovah." Instead, Jesus loved to tell others about His Father. And He wanted us to know that He can be our Father as well!

However, especially in today's world, calling God "Father" may be complicated for some of us. There are those who have been abandoned or neglected by their earthly father, or perhaps lost him early on. You may not have a great relationship with him. He may have even been the source of some of your own pain and trauma.

Calling God "Father" may bring up some unpleasant emotions. What do we do with those? We can't just ignore them. One way to deal with them is to realize we need to be careful we don't project the shortcomings of our earthly father onto our heavenly Father.

What is a positive attribute that you can think of that makes you feel good when you think of God as "Father"? (For example, I feel safe and protected, I feel comforted when I'm anxious, I feel encouraged when I'm feeling down about myself, I feel confident knowing He supports me, He's always present and available, etc.)

2.) The Bible uses a very specific word when it talks about our relationship with Father God. Take a look at this passage from Romans:

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, "Abba, Father."

Romans 8:14-15

First, notice that it is the Holy Spirit that leads us to know God as Father. Without the Holy Spirit in your life, you will probably feel like an orphan. You won't understand on a deep level what Jesus' sacrifice really means. And you can't comprehend how the creator of the entire universe wants to be your Father.

Second, He's not just a Father. He's our "Abba." This is a term that any Hebrew or Aramaic speaker would immediately understand. It's like using the name "Daddy" or "Papa." To call someone "Abba" meant more than identifying the person who gave you biological life. It was a way to talk about the deep, deep love that a dad has for his child.

God is not only your King and Lord but He is also your Dad, your Abba, your Papa, your Father. He wants to be your Father, your Heavenly Dad. Like a father who has a close relationship with their child, God wants to have a super close and intimate relationship with you. A relationship so close, you see Him as your Father...because He is.

Do you see God as your Abba, your Dad? When you talk to Him, do you feel like your relationship with Him is so close that it's one like a father who is deeply in love with their child?

3.) Did you notice the word “adopted” in Romans 8:14-15? What do you think that word means, theologically? It actually means pretty much the same thing that it means legally.

When someone is not born to a parent biologically, they can still be part of the family. Anyone who has gone through the process of adoption knows that it is no less a sign of a parent’s love or a child’s worth than the miracle of birth. In some ways, it’s even more!

That’s because someone who is adopted has been chosen. **God chose you when He saved you and forgave you.** And He keeps on choosing you – to share a deep love relationship with you, to help you discover your unique calling & Spiritual gift sets, to share His story with others, and to discover your God-given purpose in life!

As God’s chosen heirs, we have been adopted into His family through the saving grace of His Son, Jesus Christ. How does it make you feel knowing that God loves you so immensely, He has adopted you into His family?

4.) This passage also says that we are “led” by the Holy Spirit into this identity of being a child of God. We are not just led to believe this truth. And we aren’t just led to agree to join in this relationship. There is something much deeper happening in regards to our adoption into God’s family.

Think about this: how do you know that you are a child of God? You read about it. You are told about it. But the Holy Spirit can at times make you feel and experience it in a personal way.

What are some ways that you can feel and know that you are a child of God because of the Holy Spirit? (Example: when I'm in God's presence through singing songs that worship Him, when I'm reading the Bible and a scripture jumps out and brings me to a deeper understanding, when I'm praying to Him &/or when others are praying for me, when I'm serving others and I feel His joy and a sense of belonging, etc.)

5.) God, the Father, loves to see His children use the gifts He gave them. Whether it's singing and playing an instrument, greeting others with a smile, cleaning up after others, or teaching children and adults. He has given each of us a spiritual gift to be deployed for the purpose of not only expanding His Kingdom here on earth, but to feel a sense of purpose and joy knowing that we are investing our time and resources for something good that will bless others.

What is one way you have served in that past that brought you joy as your heavenly Father was watching?

Prayerfully consider volunteering for four (4) Sundays either through our Online/ Remotely or In Person Services at Regal Cinemas. Here's how:

- Scan the QR code below



- You can text "New Helper" to 45777 or go to our website NHWW.org to sign up

WHAT WILL YOU DO?



Now that you know that God is your Father, you can respond in these examples:

- Spend more quality time with Him.
- Tell someone else about your relationship with Him.
- Commit to seeking His presence through worship, serving, praying, & reading God's Word are some good examples.

ADDITIONAL ACTION STEPS:

- After much prayer, what has the Holy Spirit revealed to you about how you can serve others?
- Share about it!

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Take a few minutes to close your time together with prayer and to pray for each other's prayer requests. Below is a sample prayer to read if you choose to. You can also choose to write down each other's prayer requests to remember throughout the week.



Sample Prayer:

"Father God, thank You for adopting us into Your family. You lavishly pour out Your love for all of Your children no matter where we are in our relationship with You--existent or non-existent at the moment. Nonetheless, You recklessly keep in pursuit of us! Your Holy Spirit tells us to call you "Abba"...Daddy or Papa. What a comfort this is for us to know that we can have confidence to approach You in this special way. That means more to us than we could ever truly understand. We want to personally feel and experience Your presence through Your Holy Spirit. Help us to spend more quality time with You through reading Your word, through singing songs that worship You and draws me closer into Your presence. Thank You for being a Father to the fatherless and a defender of those who have lost someone dear. We magnify Your name Abba Father! In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

Group Prayer Requests:

Name & Prayer request:

Day 1: *"I will be your Father, and you shall be My sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty.*
2 Corinthians 6:18 (GNT)

Day 2: *A Father to the fatherless, a Defender of widows, is God in His holy dwelling.*
Psalm 68:5 (NIV)

Day 3: *Consider this: The Father has given us His love. He loves us so much that we are actually called God's dear children. And that's what we are. For this reason the world doesn't recognize us, and it didn't recognize Him either.*
1 John 3:1 (GWT)

Day 4: *After His baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on Him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is My dearly loved Son, who brings Me great joy."*
Matthew 3:17 (NLT)

Day 5: *Your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask Him!*
Matthew 6:8 (NLT)