

Children of a Perfect Father

1. When we say God is 'Father', what sorts of words come to mind? As a group, start by creating your own list (or mind map, or brainstorm, or whatever you like to call it) of what it means to you that God is 'Father'. As you go through the study, keep adding to this.
2. Hebrews 1:1-2 and John 17:24. Read these verses together. Before He was Creator, God was Father.
 - a) What kind of 'Father' is God, to Christ the Son?
 - b) How does this make God the Father different to earthly fathers?
3. Matthew 5:48 and Matthew 6:9. Looking at these verses, discuss and add to your original list:
 - a) What does the Son tell us the Father is like?
 - b) How are we to address Him and speak to Him?
 - c) What things about earthly fathers is Father God the perfection of?
4. Read Galatians 4:4-7 and Ephesians 1:3-6
 - a) Why did God send Jesus?
 - b) What change has happened for Christians?
 - c) What specific benefits do we enjoy because of this?
 - d) How do we now relate to the Father?
 - e) How is this change and new relationship shown in your... prayer life? witness? work and leisure time? time spent with other Christians? time spent with non-Christians?
5. 1 John 3:1. As a child of God, how have you enjoyed God's love lavished upon you? Share these testimonies with each other, giving thanks to God for the love he has shown each of you. Keep adding

these stories of enjoying God as Father to your original list.

6. Using the list you have been building up, celebrate the truth of God as Father.

Pray for each other:

- to know God and relate to him as Father, enjoying his love and perfection.
- to learn to love and trust the Father wholly, even in His discipline.
- where some may have been mistreated or disappointed by earthly fathers, pray that the perfect Father will heal those wounds