

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

Matthew 6:9-13

PAT NEMMERS

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This discussion guide is designed for Saylorville Church Community Groups as they live and learn together each week. The sermons and guides can be found at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- When you hear the word, *father*, what qualities or experiences immediately come to mind?
- Jesus taught His followers to begin prayer with, "Our Father in heaven." What does that opening tell us about the kind of relationship God wants His children to have with Him?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, Pastor Pat reminded us of what it means that God is "our Father."

What Does The Fatherhood Of God Mean To Us?

1. As Father, He Created You (Genesis 1:1, 26 and 1 Corinthians 8:6)

- What changes when you stop thinking of yourself as accidental or self-made and instead see yourself as someone created by God and belonging to God?
- Our creed says, "Everything exists by His will and for His glory." Where are you most tempted to live as though your life exists primarily for your purposes rather than His?

2. As Father, He Is Close To You (Isaiah 57:15 and Acts 17:27)

- God is both transcendent - high, holy, and beyond us - and immanent - near, present, and involved with us. Why are both of these characteristics of God important for you personally today?
- Why do you think we tend to emphasize one side of God more than the other - His greatness or His nearness? Which one do you tend to emphasize? Why do you think that's true for you personally?

3. As Father, He Cares For You (1 Peter 5:6-7 and Hebrews 12:7-11)

- What is the difference between God's *punishment* of sin and His *discipline* of His children?
- Pastor Pat quoted Spurgeon: "I have learned to kiss the wave that throws me against the Rock of Ages." What do you think that means?
- Is there an area of your life right now where you may currently be resisting the Father's correction?

4. As Father, He Loves You (Romans 8:35-39 and John 3:16)

- Pastor Pat described the Father's love this way: "I know you're a mess, but I'm not going anywhere." How does the gospel make that kind of security possible?
- What is the difference between saying "God loves everyone" and saying "God is my Father"?
- The sermon ended with the question, "Are you in His family?" According to John 3:16, how does someone enter into this relationship with God? Does that describe you?

Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- As a group, respond to God's love. Thank Him that through Jesus we can be brought into His family, and pray for anyone you know who does not yet know God as Father.



Creed: A Short Confession of Core Truths

A Creed is a concise confession of the essential truths of the Christian faith that unite believers of all ages across time and place. Rooted in Scripture and echoed in historic confessions of faith, creeds remind us that we are not inventing truth, but receiving it.

We believe in One God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -
three Persons, equal and eternal.

We believe in God the Father, Who Created Everything from Nothing.

He rules with wisdom, power, and love.
He is holy, just, merciful, and kind.
He gives life and every good gift.
He is in control of every nation and every moment.
Everything exists by His will and for His glory.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Sinless Savior.

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary,
fully God and fully human.
He died for our sins, was buried, and rose again.
He ascended to heaven and will return in glory
to judge all people - the living and the dead -
and to reign forever.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Person of God in us.

He convicts us of sin, opening our eyes to our need for grace,
and leading us to repentance.
He conforms us to Christ, helping us live like He did,
and giving us gifts to build up the Church.
He comforts us until the end, sealing our salvation,
and strengthening our hope.

We Believe:

- The Bible is God's Word and our final authority.
- Salvation is by grace through faith in Christ.
- The Church is the body of Christ.
- Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper are commands from Christ.
- Those who reject Christ face eternal judgment apart from God.
- Those who receive Christ experience eternal joy with God.