

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

John 16:23

“...I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”

To all the Dads, we thank you for your love and care for your family. Taking time to develop the spiritual well-being of your family is just as important as providing for their physical needs, so we thank God for you. We bless you and ask that God will increase the wisdom and understanding with which you lead your family and that He'll continue to provide abundantly for you. (If you're the mom or other significant family member reading this, we bless you too.)

In the Gospel of John, Jesus gives many descriptions of Himself but He also continually mentions the Father and the Holy Spirit. From the very first verse of John it is evident that we need more than human understanding to grasp the truth of the gospel message. John presents Jesus to us as the Son of God. It is from this perspective that the stories and messages are told. The miracles, teachings and testimony of Jesus all bring glory to the Father. He says that if we have seen Him, we have seen the Father (John 14:9). The character and nature of Jesus is a true reflection of the Father as He only did what He saw the Father do (John 5). He also promises the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us live this life to the full. The relationship between Father, Son and Spirit are interwoven and we are invited to share in this relationship and given the privilege of calling God our Father too.

We are called to testify, in this life, to the nature and character of God. Children can testify to the character and nature of their parents, they can also declare love for their parents despite the flaws and failings of those parents. How much more should we as children of God, be able to testify to the nature and character of God, who loves and cares for us perfectly. The question is are we willing to be children or are we too busy being adults to see the love that the Father lavishes on us daily? Has our own perspective of God, or a flawed earthly father figure hindered the truth of a loving Father from being revealed in our lives? John gives us the answer to this problem: the Holy Spirit (John 14-16).

Read the verse at the top of the page again and take note of the word 'whatever'. If there is a heart desire for something you feel is not yet met, talk to the Father about it today. Open your heart to the Holy Spirit to search out any anxious thought or wrong believing and then trust that the Father who sees you through the lens of love and Jesus will lead you on good paths. If you need comfort, counsel or guidance then the Holy Spirit is your answer. Remember He is as much a part of God as Jesus and the Father are. He is the free gift of God's presence, voice and power continually with us.

Have a blessed Father's Day knowing you are loved by God.

Lesson idea for all ages

Worship:

John 4:24 – ‘God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.’

Sing Come Holy Spirit - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKAlsYb2V6o>

Pray together as a family:

Thank God for all your blessings, especially for your Dad!

“Thank you God that you are a good Father. You gave us your Son Jesus and you have given us your Holy Spirit. Help us to listen and obey your voice. Thank you that you are always with us. We love you God.” Amen

Read - John 16:13

‘But when He, the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own: He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.’

The Holy Spirit is a person, just as the Father and Son are persons, together they are One and all work together.

Discuss:

- This week I would like to encourage you to give your children a testimony of how, even though you are an adult, you need a Father, Saviour and Helper. (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)
- There are 3 parts to God that are all connected and interwoven. Explain to your children that the Holy Spirit is the gift of God in us. It is through His Spirit that we hear His voice, know the Father’s will and are able to accept and declare Jesus as our saviour. The Holy Spirit is the one who works in us to help us be more like Jesus and do the works that Jesus did.
- If you have never encouraged your children to ask for and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit then today is the day. The Holy Spirit is available to all believers no matter how young. Ask and receive by faith, the same way you received Jesus as your Saviour. We then learn to listen to His voice, guiding, teaching and comforting us. The Holy Spirit will even tell us things still to come. How valuable this is for the time we are living in.
- We cannot fully worship and love God if we deny or ignore any part of Him. Father, Son and Spirit are one.
[If you have been ignorant of the Holy Spirit and His work then now is the time to do a Bible search and start reading what God wants you to know and what He is willing to freely give you.]

Challenge for the week:

Listen throughout the day to the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit in you. During family devotional time or as you say goodnight to each child in bed, ask them if they were aware of the Holy Spirit saying anything to them in the day. Share the things that God says to you and encourage the whole family to listen and learn to be led by the Holy Spirit.

We are all going to need wisdom and supernatural understanding of the times to navigate the days and years that lie ahead. Jesus, as man, relied on the Holy Spirit, we need to do the same!

Activity ideas:

- Make a Father's Day card if you haven't already done one.
Be creative. Draw your dad and write why you love him.
You could include some fun descriptions about your dad; like what food he likes best, a phrase he always says, something that makes him laugh, what his favourite colour is or something special he does to tell the family he loves them.
- Do something special for your dad today, something that will make him smile.
- Tell your dad how much you love him and why.
- Links to colouring pages and a wordsearch to do together are included below.

<https://ministry-to-children.com/fathers-day-coloring-pages/>

<https://activitiesforkids.com/fathers-day-word-search/>

Youth

In the Gospel of John, Jesus gives many descriptions of Himself but He also continually mentions the Father and the Holy Spirit. From the very first verse of John it is evident that we need more than human understanding to grasp the truth of the gospel message. John presents Jesus to us as the Son of God. It is from this perspective that the stories and messages are told. The miracles, teachings and testimony of Jesus all bring glory to the Father. Jesus tells us that if we have seen Him, we have seen the Father (John 14:9). The character and nature of Jesus is a true reflection of the Father as He only did what He saw the Father do (John 5). So everything you read about Jesus is telling you what God the Father is like too.

Points to Ponder:

- Think for a minute about the things that Jesus said and did. How He healed the sick, taught His disciples with patience and love and had compassion on people wherever He went. Do these line up with your current view of God the Father? Are there adjustments you need to make to your thinking?
- John 10:10 'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'
Jesus intends for you to live your life to the full in Him, knowing your purpose, succeeding in what you do and living in His presence and protection.
- The Holy Spirit has been given as a gift to you, to be the continual presence of God in your life. It is God's intention for you to know His plans and to be a willing part of them. John 16:13 'But when He, the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own: He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.' When Jesus walked the earth as man, He relied on the Holy Spirit to lead and guide Him. We should do no less.
- We cannot fully worship and love God if we deny or ignore any part of Him. Father, Son and Spirit are one. If you have been ignoring the Holy Spirit or uncertain of His role as God, then it's time to search the Bible and find out the truth for yourself. He is the power of God in your life. If you are feeling like you don't know where you are going or that God is offering no comfort to you, then you need to look at whether you are ignoring the Holy Spirit either because of fear or lack of knowledge. The Holy Spirit is the one who was sent to be your comforter and guide, to teach you the things you need to know about God. If you've been neglecting this part of God then it's time to repent and ask God the Father to fill you with the gift of His Holy Spirit. He will teach you to hear and follow the voice of God. It is God's will for you to live a blessed life and He has provided everything you need to do this. You just have to be willing to surrender to His leading. He is a good Father.

Do something nice for your dads this Father's Day. Take the opportunity to tell them you love them and thank them for the care and love they give you as your earthly Dad. Be grateful to them for what they teach you about God because that is the greatest gift they can give you and then rely on the Holy Spirit to help you live your life to the full.