



COMMUNITY GUIDE

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: To understand we will always have a Father in Jesus.

HEAD CHANGE: To grasp a full knowledge of all the ways Jesus is a father to us.

HEART CHANGE: Jesus, our Father, will never forsake us.

LIFE CHANGE: No matter what happens or what I do in life, Jesus will always be my Father.

OVERVIEW

Names are important and they can reveal a lot about us. Even more so, the names given to Jesus reveal the embodiment of who He is. In Isaiah 9:6-7, when Isaiah says that Jesus is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace, we begin to get a greater glimpse of how Jesus is the perfection of everything we have ever wanted.

Calling Jesus “the Everlasting Father” may seem odd, since the Bible clearly teaches that Jesus is “called God’s Son.” Here the Son is called “the Father.” This doesn’t mean he has switched places with God the Father, rather that Jesus, in his relationship to us, would be like the father we are most in need of. Some of you have great dads or you *had* great dads, and your memories of him are fond and cherished. But many of you may not have had a great relationship with your dad, and some of the greatest pain in your life comes from the lack of relationship with him.

There are Four Common Areas of Father-Woundedness: The Never-Satisfied Dad, The Time-Bomb Dad, The Emotionally Distant Dad, and the Absent Dad. But Jesus is the Everlasting Father whom you have always craved. Even if you had a good dad, at some point he disappoints you and fails you. That is why I love that word Isaiah adds, “Everlasting.” Jesus is the Everlasting Father. He never disappoints; never forsakes; never leaves; never dies. He is the Father your heart has always craved.

*“The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love”
-Psalm 103:8-*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you think about the way you were raised or what you may have learned about God as a child, what comes to mind when you think about God as your Heavenly Father?
2. As Jordan was describing the Four Common Areas of Father-Woundedness (Reference community guide for brief overview), which ones stood out to you? Why? How can Jesus as your Everlasting Father fill the father-wounds in your life?
3. Pastor Jonathon Edwards said “Stop viewing your heavenly father through the lens of your earthly. Evaluate your earthly father through the lens of your heavenly one.” In your own words, what does that look like practically?
4. If you’re a dad, share an application from the message today that you can practice this week?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Jesus, you are my Heavenly Father. Thank you for being the perfect Father and for being all that I need. When all else fails or falls short around me you are constant, and you never disappoint. Help me to understand and embrace all that you can be for me, and to see all that you are in my life even when I do not know what I need. In Jesus’ name, amen.

IN THIS TOGETHER!