

NOTES



PRAYER

"Father God, we come before You with thankful hearts, recognising Your perfect love and care for us. As we reflect on Your relationship with Jesus, help us to understand more deeply Your heart as our Heavenly Father. May we see ourselves through Your eyes, as Your beloved children in whom You take great pleasure. Guide our discussion today and draw us closer to You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

"What is one lesson or value you've learned from your parents or a parental figure in your life? How has it impacted the way you live today?"

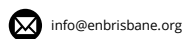
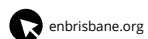


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WORD

“Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’”

[Matthew 3:13-17 \(ESV\)](#)

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

[1 John 3:1 \(ESV\)](#)

In Matthew 3:13-17, we witness a profound moment in the life of Jesus—the moment of His baptism and the public affirmation of His identity by God the Father. This passage provides a powerful insight into God’s heart of fatherhood, not only towards Jesus but also towards us as His children.

“This is my Son”: God’s declaration of Jesus as His Son emphasizes the relational position and connection between them. It is a reminder that, through Christ, we too are brought into this divine family. God doesn’t view us as distant or disconnected; He sees us as His own children, fully adopted and embraced into His family (Romans 8:15-17). This relational connection is foundational to our identity as believers.

“Beloved”: The word “beloved” speaks to the deep and abiding love that the Father has for the Son. God’s love for Jesus is not conditional or based on performance—it is an eternal, sovereign love that knew no bounds, even as Jesus approached the cross. For us, this love is extended through Christ’s sacrifice, showing us that we are deeply loved by God, regardless of our past or present circumstances (John 3:16). The Father’s love is a central aspect of His nature and is the driving force behind our redemption.

“In whom I am well pleased”: God’s pleasure in Jesus reflects His approval and delight in His Son. This pleasure is not born out of obligation or duty but out of genuine joy in who Jesus is. As believers, it’s vital to recognize that God takes pleasure in us, not because of our own righteousness, but because of the righteousness of Christ that covers us. God is not a condemning Father; He delights in our growth, our efforts to follow Him, and our pursuit of His will (Zephaniah 3:17).

Understanding these aspects of God’s fatherhood helps us to better grasp our identity in Christ and the nature of our relationship with our Heavenly Father. As we embrace our position as beloved children of God, we are called to reflect this love and connection in our relationships with others, extending grace, compassion, and joy to those around us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

((NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE))

1. How does recognizing God as your Father impact the way you view yourself and your relationship with Him?
2. What does it mean to you to be called “beloved” by God? How does this affect your daily life and decisions?
3. In what ways have you experienced God’s pleasure in your life? How does understanding His delight in you change your approach to challenges or failures?
4. How can we, as a LIFE GROUP, better reflect the relational connection, love, and pleasure that God shows us in our interactions with each other?
5. How might understanding God as a loving Father help you to heal or redefine your own experiences with earthly father figures?

“Lord Jesus, we thank You for revealing the heart of the Father to us. We acknowledge You as our Savior and Lord, and we are grateful to be called children of God. Help us to live in the truth of our identity as beloved sons and daughters, walking in the confidence that comes from knowing we are deeply loved and pleasing to our Heavenly Father. As we go from here, empower us to lay down our lives for You and for others, reflecting Your love in all we do. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.”