

Father God – Our View of Him

Facilitator Instructions: *The words in italic are possible answers you are looking for as you lead the discussion. Give a number of people time to answer the questions before you try to answer the question. Also, always have group members look up the Scriptures in their Bibles while one group member reads.*

As you lead the discussion, be open to the Holy Spirit and what He is doing during the meeting. You may never get beyond one or two questions if they are provoking a great discussion. It may also be that someone in the group needs important ministry because of what the discussion opened in their heart. Take the time to allow the Holy Spirit to minister the person through your group members.

Ice Breaker: When you were a child, what were your first thoughts of God?

Bible Study Discussion – Our View of God

Most of us grew up with a distorted perception who God is and how He desires to relate to us. We may view God as some mean and cruel person who wants to punish us for every wrong thing we do or we may see Him as the benevolent God, who is primarily a forgiving God. Or we may perceive Him as a critical God, who wants absolute control of all things.

Our discussion will focus on who God is and how we should view Him from true Biblical view. How you perceive God will affect how you relate to Him. Therefore it is of the utmost importance that we have a correct Biblical view of who God is.

- **What were your perceptions of God as you were growing up?**
- **How did these perceptions affect your relationship with God?**

Have someone read Psalm 145:3 & Isaiah 40:28

- **How does our discovery of God's greatness affect our relationship with Him?**

It enables us to come into a deeper understanding and revelation that enhances our relationship with Him as our creator.

God is not only the creator of the universe and the world, but also the creator of our lives, the one who has poured into us our talents, gifts and personalities. God's desire is for us to discover His creative beauty in each of our lives, which helps to point us towards our destiny in Him.

In order to begin to get a glimpse into God's greatness we must begin to see Him as He views Himself. Instead of allowing our lives to be conformed to our limited view of who we think God to be, we must humble ourselves and see Him as He has revealed Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ,¹ the Scripture and the revelation of His Spirit. His ways and thoughts are so much higher than our ways.

¹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? John 14:9 NIV

- **How has your limited view of God affected the relationship you have with Him?**
- **How does seeing God through the life of Jesus help you to better understand Who He is and what His heart is towards you?**

The Bible reveals a personal God reaching out to His creation, demonstrating all of the characteristics of personhood that we experience as human beings, except without sin.

God is Love – He shows unfathomable affection. *Have someone read 1 John 4:8.*

1 John 4:8 *He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

- **Knowing that God is a God of love – How does that help you in your relationship with Him?**

It makes me feel secure. God in His love desires our everlasting welfare and all of His acts are done to secure it. His Love is consistent, unfailing and pure because “God is love” in the core of His nature.

God is Holy – Absolute purity – Cannot sin nor tolerate sin. *Have someone read Isaiah 6:3 and Romans 5:8*

Isaiah 6:3 *And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!"*

- **Knowing God is absolutely Holy and mankind is basically a sinful creature, how do we reconcile ourselves with God?**

Romans 5:8 *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

God’s holiness is revealed in the fact that when Adam and Eve sinned they were expelled from the Garden and were cursed to live outside the garden where they now had to work and toil. Even though God could not tolerate sin He provided atonement for Adam and Eve’s sin by shedding the blood of an animal and covering them with its skin. Thus began the story of redemption and atonement through spilled blood.

God is full of Goodness. *Have someone read Romans 2:4*

Romans 2:4 *Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?*

- **What part did God’s goodness have to do with you in coming to God through Jesus Christ?**

Love, benevolence, mercy and grace are all included in His goodness. The goodness of God is that which enables Him to be kind, benevolent, and full of good will toward all men. In this core of His being God is tenderhearted, sympathetic and inclined to give blessings. He takes great pleasure in the happiness and well-being of His people.

Ministering Purpose:

Pray for one another in light of the question below: You may want to divide up into smaller groups to do so.

- **In light of this discussion, how can we pray for you?**