

# PERSPECTIVES

TOOLS FOR CREATING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW | ROMANS 12:2



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## **WEEK 1: THE FATHER'S HEART OF GOD**

### **ICE BREAKER**

### **WORSHIP**

### **PRAYER**

### **SERMON REWIND**

This week's message introduced the Coming Home series with a focus on "The Need for a Father." Pastor emphasized that although God deeply loves us, many of us struggle to receive His love due to our past experiences—especially wounds from earthly fathers or authority figures. These relational injuries distort how we view God. However, Scripture paints a clear picture: God is a compassionate Father who leads, disciplines, and heals His children—not out of anger, but deep affection. We are invited to come home to the Father's heart and be "re-fathered" by Him—learning to trust, rest, and live in His love.

### **KEY VERSES**

Look up these additional verses:

**Matthew 7:7–11 (NLT)**

**Hosea 11:1–4 (NLT)**

**Ephesians 1:5–6 (NLT)**

**Romans 8:38–39 (NLT)**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**1**

### **God as a Good Father**

In **Matthew 7**, Jesus compares God's love to that of a good parent—one who gives good gifts and responds to needs with kindness.

- a. What does it mean that God is a Good Father? How does this picture of God challenge or comfort you?
- b. What does it mean to you that God wants to give you good things? How can this change how you pray or depend on Him?

**2**

### **How Wounds Shape Our View of God**

Many of us project our pain from human relationships—especially with fathers—onto God. If we've experienced absence, control, anger, or rejection, it can become difficult to see God as nurturing and trustworthy.

- a. Can you identify an area where your past experience might be affecting how you relate to God?
- b. What would it look like to invite God to "re-father" you in that area?

**3**

### **God's Loving Discipline**

The sermon explained that while human discipline can feel punitive, God's discipline flows from love and a desire to restore.

- a. How have you typically viewed hard seasons in your life—punishment or formation?
- b. What might it look like to trust God's guidance through hardship?

**4**

### **Adopted into God's Family**

Ephesians tells us we've been adopted into God's family—not based on performance, but grace.

- a. How does this truth reshape your sense of belonging, identity, or security?
- b. What's one way you can embrace your identity as God's child this week?

**5**

### **Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love**

**Romans 8** reminds us that nothing—absolutely nothing—

can separate us from God's love.

- a. What fears, lies, or wounds still try to tell you otherwise?
- b. What would drawing near to God look like practically for you right now?

## DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection:

- How has your view of God been disoriented by past struggles?
- What step could you take to let God reshape that image?
- What does it look like to slow down and hear the Father's voice in your life right now?

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

"Father, What Do You Want Me to Know?" Set aside 5–10 minutes each day to sit with this question before God.

- Invite Him to speak.
- Journal or simply be still.
- Don't force a response—just open your heart to connection.

## PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

## NOTES

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## **WEEK 2: BARRIER BREAKDOWN**

### **ICE BREAKER**

### **WORSHIP**

### **PRAYER**

### **SERMON REWIND**

Pastor emphasized that our perception of God is often shaped by our earthly experiences—especially through broken or absent father figures. These distorted views can create internal barriers like fear, rejection, unworthiness, and doubt. We may carry emotional wounds that have never fully healed, and over time, these wounds impact our identity, faith, and relationships. But God, our perfect Father, seeks to restore our true identity, inviting us into a place of belonging, healing, and joy. Through Christ, we are adopted as children of God, and our healing begins by receiving His love and learning to walk as sons and daughters.

### **KEY VERSES**

Look up these additional verses:

**Psalms 68:5-6 (NLT)**

**Galatians 4:5-7 (NLT)**

**Luke 15:3-7 (NLT)**

**1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)**

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**1**

## **Barriers from Our Past**

Our understanding of God is shaped by our past—particularly through family and faith experiences. These can cause fear or distance in our relationship with God.

- a. How have your life experiences shaped the way you view God?
- b. Can you name a specific moment or relationship that impacted your connection to God as Father?

**2**

## **Healing Requires Intention**

Pastor mentioned that emotional wounds don't heal themselves. Unhealed pain (neglect, shame, legalism, or doubt) doesn't fade on its own.

- a. Why do you think people tend to ignore or bury emotional wounds?
- b. What steps could you take to allow God into those hurting spaces?

**3**

## **A Father to the Fatherless**

**Psalms 68** shows us God's heart: He is a defender of the forgotten and the lonely.

- a. What does it mean to you that God is a defender of the lonely or forgotten?
- b. How can you extend that kind of love to someone who feels isolated or rejected?

**4**

## **Restoring a Right View of God**

God's desire is not to punish but to heal and restore. His love changes us from the inside out.

- a. How does viewing God as compassionate (rather than distant) change your relationship with Him?
- b. How might receiving God's truth over your pain begin to bring healing?

**5**

## **Belonging in the Father's House**

**Luke 15** reminds us that our place is with the Father. The sheep belongs with the Shepherd. Unhealed pain (neglect, shame, legalism, or doubt) doesn't fade on its own.

- a. In **Luke 15**, what stands out to you about the shepherd leaving the 99 to find the 1?
- b. What does that say about your worth to God? What would it look like to create that same sense of belonging for others in your family, group, or church?

## DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection: Take a deep breath and read...

Often our identity gets tangled in fear, rejection, or shame. But God wants to speak truth into those places.

- What kind of words or truths do you sense God might want to say to those wounded areas?
- How can you start to live from that truth rather than past pain?

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Rewriting Identity: Each day this week, write down...

- One lie or label that you've believed about yourself
- One truth God says about you (from Scripture or prayer)

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you begin to replace old identity wounds with God's words of love.

## PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

## NOTES

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## WEEK 3: A LOST SON

### ICE BREAKER

### WORSHIP

### PRAYER

### SERMON REWIND

This week, Pastor taught from the Parable of the Prodigal Son in **Luke 15**. The story highlights the journey of the younger son: rebellion, brokenness, and ultimately, return. The sermon emphasized that recognizing our lostness is the beginning of repentance and coming home. In contrast to worldly promises, God offers true belonging and healing through His love. The Father doesn't just wait—He runs. The message ended with a call to live in the forgiveness we've received, showing that same grace to others.

### KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

**Luke 15:11–16 (NLT)**

**Luke 15:17–19 (NLT)**

**Luke 15:20–24 (NLT)**

**Matthew 16:24–26 (NLT)**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### **1** Understanding God's Love

The father in the parable represents God's heart.

- a. What stands out to you about how the father responds to the son?
- b. How does this challenge or comfort your current understanding of God?

### **2** False Freedom

Pastor described how chasing control and independence often leads to emptiness.

- a. How have you experienced this in your own life?
- b. Where are you tempted to seek fulfillment outside of God?

### **3** Coming to Our Senses

The son "came to his senses" and returned.

- a. Have you had a similar moment in your life?
- b. What helped you recognize your need for the Father?

### **4** Living a Life of Repentance

Repentance is more than a one-time event.

- a. What does daily repentance look like in your life?
- b. How does accepting God's forgiveness change how you relate to others?

### **5** The Father's Response

The father ran to meet the son and restored him fully.

- a. What does this say about God's grace?
- b. How can we show that same grace to those around us—in our family, friendships, or community?

## DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection: Take a deep breath and read...

We were reminded that, even if life looks good on the outside, we may be struggling on the inside. God is near to the brokenhearted.





## WEEK 4: THE ROAD HOME

### ICE BREAKER

### WORSHIP

### PRAYER

### SERMON REWIND

This week, Pastor focused on the older brother in the Prodigal Son parable. The elder son didn't leave home, but his heart had grown distant. His self-righteousness, comparison, and entitlement kept him from entering the Father's celebration. Pastor reminded us that God's love isn't transactional—we don't earn it by doing everything "right." Both sons in the story are lost in different ways, and both are pursued by the Father. The message ended with an invitation to grow spiritually and begin to reflect the heart of the Father ourselves.

### KEY VERSES

Look up these additional verses:

**Luke 15:25-28 (NLT)**

**Luke 15:28-31 (NLT)**

**Exodus 34:6 (NLT)**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

### Self-Righteousness

Living with a self-righteous attitude can be harmful and damaging to both ourselves and those around us.

- a. What does self-righteousness look like in our everyday lives (at work, in friendships, in faith)?
- b. How does this mindset affect our ability to receive grace?

2

### Earning God's Love

This week's message reminded us that nothing we do can earn God's love.

- a. How does that challenge or comfort you?
- b. Where might you be working for God's love rather than receiving it?

3

### Comparison Trap

The older son compares himself to his brother.

- a. How do we fall into similar patterns?
- b. What can we do to choose grace instead of comparison?

4

### The Father's Pursuit

The Father goes out to the older son and pleads with him.

- a. What does this say about God's heart?
- b. What helps you return to God in times when you feel resentful, tired, or overlooked?

5

### Becoming Like the Father

The message challenges us to mature beyond being sons and reflect the Father's love.

- a. What does that look like in your life?
- b. Which trait from **Exodus 34:6** (compassion, mercy, slow to anger, unfailing love) do you want to develop more?







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The Perspectives Curriculum is written by Small Groups  
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