

A FATHER'S LOVE

I. EARTHLY FATHERS ARE TO TELL THEIR CHILDREN ABOUT THE

HEAVENLY FATHER –Genesis 18:19, Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Ephesians 6:1-2

II. A PERSON'S GREATEST NEED – KNOWING THE HEAVENLY FATHER

God becomes your heavenly Father, when you get saved, when you're forgiven of your sins. Then you can know the Father's love. Matthew 6:1, 4, 8, 9, 14, 18, 32; Matthew 7:11

III. THE HEAVENLY FATHER HAS FORGIVEN YOU

Because of Christ's work on the cross in paying for your sins, and because of the Holy Spirit's work in your heart, and because of your faith in Christ then you are forgiven of all your sins, past, present and future. Romans 8:1, Colossians 2:13

IV. THE HEAVENLY FATHER HAS ADOPTED YOU

As a Christian, you are a child of God and have been adopted into His family. Now you have a heavenly Father, a spiritual Father, an eternal Father, a perfect Father, One who deeply loves you and who will someday bring you to your heavenly home. Psalm 116:15

V. THE HEAVENLY FATHER HAS COMPASSION ON YOU

God shows His love for you by being compassionate towards you. He feels when you hurt; He's concerned when you are troubled, when you go through trials, when you're tempted, and when you're weak. Psalm 103:13, Matthew 9:36-38

VI. THE HEAVENLY FATHER PROTECTS YOU

As a Christian you are in a great spiritual war, and so don't be naïve, but look to God for help. You are protected by means of God's Word, by means of the Holy Spirit, by means of the angels, and by means of the church. Ephesians 6:10-12, Hebrews 1:14

VII. THE HEAVENLY FATHER PROVIDES FOR YOU

God loves you by providing for you, by giving you your daily bread. He gives you physical blessings and He gives you spiritual blessings, for He gives you the Holy Spirit, His Word, the church, His grace, His wisdom, His peace and His joy. Psalm 23:1, Ephesians 1:3

VIII. THE HEAVENLY FATHER IS GOOD TO YOU

God's goodness is an expression of His love for you. He gives you a good body. He gives you the sun and the stars. He gives you beaches and mountains. He gives you a good place to live. He gives you good friends. He gives you good food. Psalm 100:4-5

IX. THE HEAVENLY FATHER IS PATIENT WITH YOU

God loves you by being patient with you. Just like a parent needs to be patient with his or her children, so too God is patient with you. He puts up with you, and forbears with you with regards to different areas of weakness or sin in your life. Nehemiah 9:17

X. THE HEAVENLY FATHER IS WISE – HE KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING IN YOUR LIFE

God shows His love for you by being wise in His dealings with you. He knows what He is doing in your life. God's wisdom relates to His plans for your life, to the family you had, to how He trains you, to the abilities He gives you, and to the relationships He gives you.

XI. THE HEAVENLY FATHER GIVES YOU A PURPOSE

God loves you by giving you a reason for living. The plans God gives you are the best of plans. Whether they relate to a job, a ministry, or a relationship, they are for God's purposes, for the good of others, and for your good as well. Jeremiah 29:11, 1 Peter 4:11

XII. THE HEAVENLY FATHER GIVES YOU A SPIRITUAL FAMILY

One of the main ways God loves you is through the lives of other Christians. It may be expressed in their compassion, kindness, patience, and forgiveness. It may be seen in their commitment to you, or that they are praying for you. Acts 2:42, Hebrews 10:25

XIII. THE HEAVENLY FATHER COMMUNICATES WITH YOU

God loves you by communicating with you. And His primary way to communicate is through His Word. God wants to instruct you and correct you, to comfort and encourage you, to show you compassion, patience, and forgiveness. Matthew 4:4

XIV. THE HEAVENLY FATHER LOVES YOU BY GIVING YOU HOPE

God gives you hope, and this is His promise to you of what will take place in the future. God wants you to be looking forward to when you'll be in heaven, when you'll be with Jesus, when you'll have a new body, and when you'll be with all the other believers. Romans 5:5

**XV. THE HEAVENLY FATHER IS LOVING IN THAT HE IS GENTLE WITH YOU,
IS SOVEREIGN OVER YOUR LIFE, AND IS FAITHFUL TO YOU**

**WE HAVE COME TO KNOW AND HAVE BELIEVED
THE LOVE THAT GOD HAS FOR US.
GOD IS LOVE, AND THE ONE WHO ABIDES IN LOVE
ABIDES IN GOD, AND GOD ABIDES IN HIM. 1 John 4:16**

SOME QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

1. What is the main thing you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. What was your earthly father like? How did he affect your life? Remember, God is sovereign.
3. Review each one of the areas listed, and thank the Lord for how He has loved you in that way.
4. Of all the ways listed in which God loves you, which one or two impacts you the most?
5. Think about how God has provided for you, and has been good to you, and then thank Him.
6. Think about how God is just beginning to show His love to you, for His love is an eternal love.
7. How can you grow in knowing God's love for you?