

A God Sized Father

Father's Day 2020

A GOD-SIZED FATHER

Read the text: John 14:8-11

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

Read the text: Zephaniah 3:11-17

"On that day you shall not be put to shame
because of the deeds by which you have rebelled against me;
for then I will remove from your midst
your proudly exultant ones,
and you shall no longer be haughty
in my holy mountain.

But I will leave in your midst
a people humble and lowly.

They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord,
those who are left in Israel;

they shall do no injustice
and speak no lies,
nor shall there be found in their mouth
a deceitful tongue.

For they shall graze and lie down,
and none shall make them afraid."

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

In today's sermon, Pastor Dave shared that we all need a God-sized Father. Both dads and their families need a better father who is able to give all that they need. And the good news is that Jesus has come to reveal our perfect Father and meet all our needs! This good news frees dads up to know they are forgiven for their failure and to serve their families. This also is good news to those whose dads have failed them in some way, as all dads will do. Jesus reveals our perfect Father! God is a better provider, providing exactly what we need when we need it. God is a better leader, standing against the arrogant and caring for the oppressed. And God is a better peace, giving peace and love to both failed dads and hurt families. He loves you and is for you!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. Pastor Dave said, “If you want to know what a good Father looks like, look at Jesus.” He perfectly reflected His Father to us. Take some times to discover how Jesus reflected the Father to us. Look at the passage from Zephaniah above and share specific ways Jesus made this tangible to us in the Gospels.
2. How have you seen God be a better Father to you, specifically in how He has provided for you? Share tangible examples. How do you need him to be a provider for you in the future? It’s okay to have needs! Share these needs with each other and entrust them to your perfect Father.
3. How have you failed to lead in the unique ways God has called you to lead? (Your own life, your family, your work place, your peers, etc) How is the news that God is a better leader for us “good news” for you? If this is true, how does that change how you approach the ways God has called you to lead?
4. God is a “better peace” for us. Zephaniah writes, “He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by his love; He will exult over you with loud singing.” In the midst of both our own failures and our fathers’ failures, we have a perfect Father who rejoices over us with gladness. He loves us so much, He sent His only beloved Son to die for us and make us His sons and daughters. How does this truth help you face your own failures as a father (or a parent or a leader)? How does it help you face the failures of your own dad?