

**WEEK 6 | THE PERFECT FATHER-SON RELATIONSHIP
MATTHEW 3:13-17**

CURRENT SERMON SERIES

THE
STORY OF HUMANITY
- IN THE -
LIFE OF JESUS

A STUDY OF MATTHEW 2 - 4



ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 MINUTES)

Catch everybody up to date on what's going on with New City. You can use your bulletin as a tool to do so. Especially remind dads with little girls about the [Oakley Daddy Daughter Dance](#) at 20th Century (organized by our own Brian Ferry; spots are filling up fast). Our [Intro to New City class](#) is coming up on Feb 22 (we really want everyone to take this class at some point; and it's a prerequisite for church membership). You might also want to take a few moments to show [this video on how to get the most out of The City](#).

And remember, Brian is in India for 2 weeks. Pray for his safety, for the teaching and music leading he will be doing, Cheryl and the kids at home, and our partnership with Partners India. Maybe even take some time to pray for this as a group.

ENGAGE (10 MINUTES)

Starter Questions: Do you have any family traditions that you hope to maintain throughout your life?

REFLECTION AND STUDY (30-35 MINUTES)

To start the year we're going to be looking at the early episodes in the life of Jesus as told by Matthew 2-4.

1.) Discuss this statement by New Testament scholar Frederick Dale Bruner: "No single reality is more important for any son or daughter to know than a father's love." Do you agree? Why or why not?

2.) OPTIONAL: Hand out copies of the recent article from *The Atlantic* called "[The Distinct, Positive Impact of a Good Dad](#)" by W. Bradford Wilcox. What did you learn from the article about the important role fathers play in the lives of their children?

3.) **Read Matthew 3:13-17.** Based on this little glimpse, what do we learn about Jesus' relationship with the Father?

4.) On Sunday, Mark Brown laid out 4 key principles for fatherhood: a.) being there, b.) presence felt, c.) spoken words, and d.) words of affirmation and love. If you are a parent, which of these do you think you need to work at in your relationships with your children?

5.) What difference would it make to catch your son or daughter doing something right this week? How can you apply the principles of affirmation beyond parenting: in the workplace, in friendships, in the church?

6.) **Read Galatians 4:4-7.** What difference does it make to relate to God as Father?

7.) **Read Hebrews 4:15-16.** How does knowing this truth relate to any pain you have experienced in relation to your earthly father?

8.) How can you move towards your earthly father in a God-honoring way this week?

PRAYER (15 MINUTES)

Break up into smaller groups of men and women. For those who are comfortable, share your applications and pray for one another.