

**Our Father: Celebrating the Fatherhood of God**  
**Father's Day 2016 | Selected Scriptures**  
Southern Hills Baptist Church  
June 19, 2016

**Introduction:** Happy Father's Day! Father's Day is a day meant to celebrate and remember the wonderful Fathers in our lives. There is no greater Father than that of our Heavenly Father so tonight we will take time to consider God as our Heavenly Father. The Fatherhood of God is no small issue. "Father" was the primary title with which Jesus referred to God (over 165 times in the Gospels). If Jesus, who knows God fully, saw this as the primary reference point of God we ought to hunger to know God as Father as well.

We will consider 5 different attributes of God as Father that teach us about who God is and who we are as His children.

**Our Father...**

**1. He Graciously Adopts (Romans 8:12-17)**

- **The Big Idea:** Believers become children of God as God adopts us into His family. This is no ordinary adoption. Prior to God bringing us into His family we were enemies, rebels, traitors, slaves to sin. God knew our histories, all of our secret sins, and shameful moments, which necessitated the brutal death of His one and only Son. And despite all of this He made us His sons and daughters. Grace upon grace!!!
- **Application:** Rejoice! Your Heavenly Father knows every detail of your life, even those you have tried to hide out of shame, and He has still brought you into His family! This should fuel worship!

**2. He Generously Provides (Matthew 7:7-11)**

- **The Big Idea:** Virtually all fathers want good for their kids, they want to set them up for success. If this is true of human fathers who struggle with sin and selfishness, how much more so with God, who is perfect in His love and limitless in His resources?
- **Application:** We should rest in God, knowing He is going to provide from a heart that wants the best for us. Just as my kids are sheltered from the stresses of life because they trust me to care for them, we don't have to be overwhelmed by life as God will care for us as well.

**3. He Lovingly Pursues (Matt 18:12-14)**

- **The Big Idea:** We are prone to wander. We leave the wise and loving leadership of God for destructive paths disguised as adventures. God in

His love pursues us to bring us back into the safety and joy of His fold. Even when we reject God He chases after us. This is Fatherly love!

- **Application:** You are loved. Even when you rebel and turn your back on God He will not turn His back on you, in fact He comes after you. When you wander from God you should expect Him to pursue you. If you are wise you will return to His warm fellowship.

**4. He Tenderly Loves (Luke 15:11-24)**

- **The Big Idea:** The parable of the prodigal son shows us a son who rebels in selfish and hateful ways against his father. Despite that the father eagerly and tenderly welcomes the repentant son home after he returns from squandering the family money on debauchery.
- **Application:** We are abundantly loved by our Heavenly Father. This kind of love means that we never walk alone in this life (Rom 8:37-38). This kind of love also means we are never too far gone. Our sin will never take us beyond where God's love reaches.

**5. He Powerfully Protects (John 10:22-30)**

- **The Big Idea:** Our Heavenly Father is our protection and Jesus says that there is none greater than God, none stronger, none mightier, nor wiser or smarter, none more powerful. This God, our Father, has purposed that we would have eternal life. Who can threaten us?
- **Application:** Just as children find security at the side of their fathers, we as God's children should find our security in our Heavenly Father. This powerful protection should free us to live for the glory of God. Nothing can threaten your eternity! Boldly live for Christ today!

**Visual Theology**

