

WORSHIP

Everlasting God, We Praise You, Good Good Father, Christ Be Magnified

WELCOME

If your dad was a superhero, what power would he likely have? What would do you think he would use it for?

WORD

MATTHEW 6:9-15 9“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. 10Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from evil’ 14 For if you forgive other people for their offenses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive other people, then your Father will not forgive your offenses.”

The world celebrates Father’s Day and honors fathers from all walks of life, but a common difficulty on occasions such as this is faced by those who do not have “fathers” (passed on early, absentees, or distant), or those who do not have “good father” examples. Through this message, we look at the example of “A Father Like No Other” – our Heavenly Father! In the Old Testament, God is described as “Father” only 15 times. However, in the New Testament, Jesus used the term “Father” referring to God over 165 times, and if we include the epistles from the Apostle Paul and others, it is used over 200 times. The Creator of the heavens and the earth is our Father, and Jesus even used a term of endearment “Abba” because He wants us to know that God is our Father! We will look at the famous model of prayer in Matthew 6 prescribed by Jesus and see the things we can learn about God as our Father.

1. PREMINENCE The word pre-eminence means above others when it comes to ranking that signifies what is “most important”. In other words, “Our Father who is in Heaven” is uniquely superior – there is no equal. Because of His preeminence, what must we do? **Matthew 6:9** states “Hallowed be Your Name”. The word ‘hallowed’ comes from the Greek word **HAGIAZO** which means to make holy, set apart, glorify, and honor Him. The opposite of hallowing God’s Name is to ‘profane’ His Name. When we live our lives in a way that brings shame to the Name of the Lord, we are not treating Him with the respect He deserves. To be a good father, you must be able to lead your family in hallowing and revering God’s Name. Your life should reflect that God is priority in your own life and in the lives of your family members. Observe what consumes your time the most; what do you love most, what excites you, and what keeps you busy. Is your relationship with the preeminent God standing out? It’s never too late to change! **Matthew 6:10** emphasizes that it is about His kingdom, His priority. It is one thing to know God’s will and be able to do it. To reflect that God is preeminent in your life, your choices and actions should always be glorifying to Him. To show the preeminence of God in our life is not done by mere talking, but it must be done in action.

2. PROVIDER Matthew 6:11 states a request – “Give us this day our daily bread”. The word daily bread comes from the Greek word EPIOUSIOS which translates to as “the need for the day”. This word is so unique and was probably invented by the Gospel writers. It combines two words to mean “whatever is the need TODAY”. A good father will provide (1 Timothy 5:8). God expects fathers to provide for their families. While there are exceptions, it is a general rule for fathers to provide. Matthew 6:25-26 reminds us not to worry because we have a Heavenly Father. If God will provide for the birds, how much more will He provide for you and me? Our Heavenly Father is an amazing Provider! The average father will spend roughly 20+ seconds for interaction with his children each day. But there are other needs aside from physical needs, such as emotional and spiritual needs. It is so important that a father must be willing to spend time with his children. Do you know the needs of your children? God does not only know, but He is also able to provide! **Matthew 7:9-11** shows that God not only knows our needs and provides, but He also knows what is best and when best to give that something to us. **2 Kings 4:1-7** is a story that shows that even if God provides (the oil miraculously multiplied, providing for the widow in dire need), the expectation is we do our part as well. For the widow, she had to visit as many neighbours and borrow as many vessels as she can. So, God is our provider, but we are to do our part as well.

3. HE PARDONS Matthew 6:12 reminds us that God forgives (Gk. APHEMI, to send away or cancel). Jesus wants us to know that our Heavenly Father is a forgiving Father. Forgiveness is so crucial, that a few verses down (v.14-15) Jesus reminds us that we must be able to forgive. It is not an option, but a command. Because our Father is forgiving and pardoned us, God expects us to forgive others. Many family problems can be traced back to lack of forgiveness. Fathers must develop a culture of forgiveness in the household. **Psalms 103:8, 10-12** paints a perfect picture of God’s lovingkindness and willingness to forgive our great iniquities. The forgiveness of God is based on His compassion and grace, and therefore able to abound in love! Forgiveness is letting go. It is an amazing thing to embrace about our God, because many people today desire to be forgiven.

4. PROTECTS Matthew 6:13 shows the petition we ask of our Heavenly Father to “not lead us to temptation (peirasmos, meaning trials and hardships)” and “deliver us from evil (poneros, meaning pain, suffering, and evil)”. It’s okay to expect your father to protect and guide you. The word peirasmos can be positive or negative as in the case we see in **James 1:13**. Its verb form peirazo is used in the verse negatively as something that causes you to sin, but there are certain trials that He allows. **1 Peter 1:6-7** is a good reference to this, as the positive form of the word pertains to that which proves our faith. Faith is crucial and it has to be genuine. When God allows trials, He allows it to refine and build us up. It is calibrated clearly, as can be seen in 1 Corinthians 10:13. This truth is a great comfort, because whatever trial that God allows, it is there to build us up; no trial is beyond His ability to help us endure. Part of a father’s job is to protect. Sometimes, it will mean DISCIPLINE. **Hebrews 12:6-7** is a reminder that the consequences of our bad choices are allowed so we can learn what is right and wrong. **Hebrews 12:10-11** tells us that a good father disciplines, not for the purpose of punishment, but to train his children. Ephesians 6:4 is a great instruction on how to discipline children, and how to avoid being over-controlling or not disciplining at all.

Discussion Questions:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- **Self-Check.** How do you think you will grow to trust and understand God more as your Heavenly Father?
- **Setting It Right** If you are a father, how will you improve based on the qualities you learned today? If you are a child, what have you not appreciated about your father? Express it today and be a blessing!
- **Living It Out** Honouring your earthly father gives honour to our Heavenly Father. Do people around you see this in your life? What will you do to share to them about your Heavenly Father's great love – a love that they too can experience?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION (PCS)

Pray for the fathers around you today that they may have the eagerness to know God's will, God's ways, and God's promises in the Bible. Extend an act of kindness by encouraging them or helping them in practical ways. Share how they can know God, our Father like no other, through Jesus Christ.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. THANKSGIVING

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

II. COUNTRY AND THE WORLD

- Upright and moral governance of the Public Servants
- A God-centered Philippines and Canada
- Repentance and Salvation

III. CHURCH

- That CCF Members would honour and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries Worldwide

IV. CCFE'S OWN BUILDING

- Worship and Training Centre

V. PERSONAL CONCERNS

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of Families and Friends