

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

GOD OUR FATHER

ROMANS 8:12–17

APRIL 10, 2022

DISCUSSION 1: OVERVIEW

1. When you think of the language of God as Father, does that language tend to bring up positive or negative connotations, or both? Why?
2. How can fallen, earthly fathers cause confusion or misunderstanding of what it means for God to be our Father? How can imperfect but good earthly fathers give us pictures or glimpses into what it can mean for God to be our Father?
3. What are ways you struggle to relate to God as Father?
4. What are ways the language of God as Father encourage you to draw near, trust in Him, or seek His help?

DISCUSSION 2: ROMANS 8:12-17

1. Read Romans 8:15-16 and Galatians 4:4-7. How do we become God's children through Jesus?
2. What are some of the blessings and the responsibilities that come with being an adopted child of God?
3. How does God as Father speak to His generosity and provision in our lives? What does it look like to trust Him as a Father for your needs and believe He wants to provide for you?
4. God's ultimate concern isn't shielding us from trials and discomfort but using these things to conform us to the image of Christ, which is for our good (Rom. 8:28-29). How does this desire for our ultimate good, and not necessarily what's easiest, reflect a loving heart?
5. In the midst of trials, how can you trust God's good and wise plan for you and His purposes to use this for good in your life?
6. Paul sees our adoption as a motivation to be set free from slavery to sin or to the Law for works-righteousness. How might understanding our adoption and having God as our Father encourage us to fight and flee our sin and pursue holiness?

DISCUSSION 3: APPLICATION

1. If you have any negative experiences of earthly fathers, what truths do you need to remind yourself of so that you don't falsely project the failures or weaknesses of earthly fathers onto God?
2. If you're a parent, how can you reflect what it means for God to be our Father? Are there areas you're not reflecting God well that you need to confess and seek His help in?
3. What is one way this week you can draw near to and experience God as a good, loving, gracious, and generous Father?