

## MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Scripture: Matthew 6:9

How we approach God makes a life or death difference in our relationship with God.

When we recognize God as our Father we understand that:

1. God is our Savior not our supervisor
  - Transactional or contractual relationships are based on what we do for one another.
  - Family relationships are based on who we are to one another.
2. Through Jesus we are adopted into God's family

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you view God? What are some ways you've noticed that you relate to God in a transactional relationship? How has that affected the way you approach Him in prayer?
2. What are the barriers in your life that keep you from being able to relate to God as Father? Discuss how you can help each other break down those barriers.
3. Read John 1:9-13. We are not called children of God because of earthly prestige or anything we physically do. We are given the right to be called His children because of Jesus – when we receive Him by transferring our trust to Him as Savior. In what ways do you place your faith in things like prestige, physical property, your actions, or what you can control? If you are a Christian, share your journey to understanding God as Father and becoming a child of God. If you aren't a Christian, share your journey to your current understanding of who God is and what faith means. What questions do you have?

## NEXT STEPS

The early church was awestruck by what Jesus did for them to be adopted as God's children! Too often we take for granted our adoption and all that was done to make that a reality. We forget the enormity of our identity in Christ. Take a few moments and meditate on 1 John 3:1:

"See (or behold) what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

As a group share what it means to you to be called a child of God! Take delight in the GREAT LOVE the Father lavishes on you, and adopt a posture of awe in the privilege of being able to call God "FATHER."

## PRAYER

Read through the Lord's Prayer out loud as a group. (Matthew 6:9-14)

Each week we will look at a portion of this prayer. Today we have focused on how we approach God. As you pray together, address God as Father. Spend time thanking Him for the right to be called His child. Talk with your Father out of relationship rather than as a transaction. YOUR FATHER LOVES YOU AND CALLS YOU HIS OWN!