

**Title:** The Fatherhood of God // **Scripture:** John 8:38-44, 17:1-5, 20:17

**ARRIVAL / SOCIAL TIME** 15-20 minutes

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing with one another. Also find time to catch up together on how the assignments from last week turned out.

**SERMON REVIEW** 5-10 minutes

Our thread through the Gospel of John this week is looking at the Fatherhood of God. We all have fathers. We all have had different experiences of our earthly fathers. Some of us had father's who were present, caring, loving and wise. Others of us have had cruel, judgmental, or absent fathers. We all have been given the choice to choose to listen to the influence of others. The way we act is a reflection of whom we have chosen to listen to. Jesus engaged with others pointing others to himself as a reflection and direction of His Father. Jesus depends upon- relies upon the fatherhood/ relationship with God which propels him to do what God does. Jesus is given authority over all by God. Jesus is also given access to the perfect Father. God is present, generous, sends/ releases Jesus to do His work, and given His approval/ blessings to Jesus. Jesus was given the Holy Spirit, words, work, people to take care of, direction, blessings and also sending. We also have access to the fatherhood of God. It is through Jesus that we can receive the same relationship that he had with God. We can see how this works through this relationship diagram; The way God fathers Jesus- The way God desires to father us- The way God desires us to be fathers. We can have access to this through forgiveness and repentance; releasing the wounds that we have held on to placing them into Jesus's hands and leave them there, then embrace the truth where there was a lie, trust and turn back to Jesus.

**THE MAIN THOUGHT** *keep this in mind as you facilitate discussion*  
"It is through Jesus that we have access to the Fatherhood of God"

**SEE IT – Questions** 10-15 minutes

**Picture:** Where did Jesus say the Jews found their chosen influence and why does he point this out to them? What kind of father is God to Jesus? What are the four attributes that Jon mentioned that were the kind of father God is? What does God give to Jesus (John 17:2)?

**Mirror:** What kind of fatherhood do you think you have received? Are you living a life that lines up with your fatherhood? Do you believe that God is a good Father? When have you experienced the approval of your earthly father and Heavenly Father? What did that experience help send you to do?

**Window:** Who do you know that has had a close, wise, intimate fatherhood? Where have you seen the influence of fatherhood in how they behave? Where have you seen people respond in a way that glorifies God?

**BE IT – Practice**

**Change UP // Exercise** 15 minutes

Using the lists of truths of God's Fatherhood: (He is present, generous, sends/ releases, He approves and gives blessings), spend some time in praise and worship listing the specific ways that God has been a good Father to you. Write it down and share it out loud with your group, praising God.

**Change IN // Group Activity** 5 minutes

Fatherhood is costly. It takes all of you. Spend sometime praying for the fathers in your group. Ask God to show them how to father based on His example, by looking at the way He Father's Jesus. Asking the Lord to glorify himself in them as they father their families.

**Change OUT // Life Application Assignment** 5 minutes

July is FAMILYWISE at Grace. This is a great way to start looking at the people and places in your life to show God's love for the family and the fatherless. Start reading Proverbs together as a family. Also, every Wednesday, families go to Clarkston to love on the refugee families and children (many are there without fathers). Engage as a group to go to at least one night of Clarkston to show the fatherless some of the attributes of God's fatherhood.

**CLOSING PRAYER** 5 minutes

Take a few minutes to gather any prayer requests and pray for each other to SEE IT and BE IT this week.