



Life Group Study Notes
“Father’s Day: The Perfect Father”
Dr. Rice Brooks - June 17, 2018

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What is/was your father’s favorite sport? Why?
- What is/was your favorite activity to do with your father?
- If you could give your father a special gift, what would it be?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Key Quote:

Matthew 5:43-48 ESV *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*

James 1:16-17 ESV *Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

God alone is the perfect Father. His intention is to restore his image in every person who will turn to him and be reconciled to him through Jesus Christ. He calls us to perfection and makes it possible for us grow and be restored into his image.

Presence

One important characteristic of God as our perfect Father is his presence. He is with us at all times. Because of Jesus’ substitutionary death on the cross, God now indwells all who have turned to him (John 14).

Presence is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children. Our presence communicates to them that we value them. By being present we are able to grow in relationship with them we get to know them, and they get to know us.

Righteousness

God is also perfect in righteousness. He is perfect in all his ways and in all his thoughts. Through Jesus he has given us the gift of righteousness. Jesus took our sin upon himself in the punishment of the cross in order to exchange it for his righteousness, which is freely gifted to everyone who believes him. While we are still imperfect God credits us with his righteousness and regards us as pleasing in his sight.

We can and should teach and train our children in righteousness through our own faith in Jesus and through our own example of following him. We can teach our children about God's goodness and mercy toward us revealed in Jesus Christ. We can help them understand and believe that God declares them righteous if they believe in Jesus. We can show them what righteousness looks like by living a godly life with the help of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.

Forgiveness

God is perfect in his forgiveness. Jesus taught us that God is willing to quickly and fully forgive a sinner of even an enormous amount of sin (Matthew 18). God chooses to remember our sins no more once we genuinely turn to him because of Jesus Christ. He no longer will treat us according to what we actually deserve. Instead, he treats us as beloved children. As such he imparts hope to us through his promises and the help of the Holy Spirit that we can change.

We also are to model forgiveness to our children, teaching them to be quick to come to us and admit their wrongs. By modeling forgiveness, we teach our children to likewise forgive others. Even as we forgive our children, we can also help inspire them to believe that they can change.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- How is God a perfect Father to us?
- How does God help us to become perfect (or mature) like him?
- What is one area in your life that you know God wants you to become more like him?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for being a perfect Father to each and all of us.
- Ask God for a greater revelation of God as our Creator-Father.
- Ask God for his father's heart for people, so that we might better express his love for them.