



Hill Cliffe Study Guide
GOD The Father
Sunday 16 June 2024

1. What impacted you most from the Sermon on Sunday?

Our heavenly father is consistently patient, perfect and personal.

2. Which fathers (or worldly narratives of what a father is or should be) have influenced you the most? How has this impacted your image of God the Father? Does this help or hinder your relationship with him?

He is patient - We considered **Psalm 103:8-10, 2 Peter 3:9, Luke 15:11-32, 1 Tim 1:16** and the idea that God is generously, not reluctantly, patient, regardless of how imperfect we are.

3. From these verses - how is Gods patience different from earthly fathers?
4. Do we think we're pushing our Heavenly Father's patience or do we really, deeply believe that his patience for us is endless?

He is perfect - We looked at **Matt 6, Matt. 5:48, John 14:16** and considered that the use of the phrase "our father in heaven" was describing His perfect nature, not merely a location.

5. From these verses - what does Gods consistency, compared to human inconsistency, tell us about him and how we can relate to him?
6. Do we put on Him earthly narratives of imperfection, or do we really, deeply believe that he is consistently peerless?

He is personal - We referenced **Mark 14:36, Matt 6, 7:11; 18:19; 26:39, 42; Mark 11:25; 11:2; John 4:23; 14:16, Luke 15:20** when thinking about the radical shift caused by Jesus encouraging the use of the word Father.

7. From these verses – do you feel more comfortable with the big, strong attributes of God the Father (like creator) or the gentler, more subtle aspects?
8. How do you feel about the idea that God cares for each of us so personally that we could curl up on his lap for a cuddle?
9. Do we brush aside the idea that our Heavenly Father is truly, personally interested in us, or do we really, deeply believe that he loves to know every detail of our lives?

10. Which characteristic (Patient, Perfect, Personal) sits least comfortably with you and which is more comfortable for you? Is this influenced by the images and experiences of earthly fathers?

11. What differences might you see in your relationship with God, in your prayer life, or in your life generally if you fully embraced these 3 characteristics of God the Father?