

# The Character of God

This lesson will teach you what God is like and how He has revealed himself to us.

Complete the following discipleship lesson using a pen and a Bible. Look up the verses below in Scripture and fill in the blanks when necessary.

There is only one God, and as we see in the Bible, He reveals Himself in three different ways: as God the Father, as Jesus Christ the Son, and as the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

## God the Father

### The Father Created Us

Psalm 139:13-14

For you \_\_\_\_\_ my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully \_\_\_\_\_; your works are wonderful,

I know that full well!

God is our Heavenly Father. He created us with a plan, a purpose, and an identity. Because He created us, He knows what is best for us. Like any good father, He intends to provide for, protect, and guide us.

### The Father Loves Us

1 John 3:1

See what great \_\_\_\_\_ the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called \_\_\_\_\_ of God!

And that is what we are!

In the verse above, consider the word "lavish." A lavish person is very "generous and extravagant" (New Oxford American Dictionary). God wants to be generous and extravagant towards us with His Love. Regardless of your past, your family, your mistakes, or your fears God wants to lavish His love on you because you are His child.

### The Father Heals Us

Because our relationships with our parents often significantly impact how we view God, it can be helpful to explore our relationship with our earthly father. Like it or not, our relationship with our earthy father can impact how we experience the love of God. Place an "X" below by the characteristics that describe your earthly father.

- Distant & disinterested
- Kind & compassionate
- Passive & cold
- Nitpicking & perfectionistic
- Slow to anger
- Wants to help me

- Impatient & Harsh
- Too busy for me
- Protecting & providing
- Healthy, loving discipline
- Warm & accepting
- Condemning

- Full of grace when I fail
- Doesn't care what I do
- Not around
- Unconditionally loving
- There when I need Him
- Interested in my life

# ALLPEOPLESCHURCH Discipleship Lesson 7

Read Luke 15:11-24. This story describes a relationship between a son and his father.

**Discussion:** What are the similarities between this father and God our Father?

Now, close your eyes and ask God to reveal His love to you. Listen to His voice and allow Him to heal your heart.

## Jesus Christ

There is truly no one in world history like Jesus. His name produces more intrigue and controversy than any other. History itself is divided by the date of His Birth (BC/AD). Jesus was God in the flesh who came to the world to save us from our sins.

### **Jesus was God**

What is God like? Jesus was God. God loved us so much that He became like us. He had a powerful ministry on the earth to the poor and broken. He touched average people like us. He healed people and set them free from spiritual darkness. God didn't want us to be "lost," so He sent Jesus to teach us how to find our way back to Him.

#### *Luke 19:10*

*For the Son of man came to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the lost.*

### **Jesus Died and Rose from the Dead**

Jesus had a supernatural ministry on earth, but He was more than a healer or a prophet. God actually sent Him to die for our sins. He died for our sins so we could have eternal life.

#### *John 3:16*

*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

After dying on the cross, Jesus rose from the dead. This proves to us that He is the way to heaven and eternal life. He then ascended into Heaven after appearing to many people (Acts 1:9).

### **Jesus is Coming Again**

At the end of the Bible, in the book called "Revelation," we learn of the promise that Jesus is coming again on the earth. At this time He will set everything right in the world, judge evil, defeat darkness, and set right all wrongs. Jesus Himself speaks in Revelation 22:7, declaring "Look, I am coming soon!"

We do not know when Jesus will come back. Only God the Father controls that (Matthew 24:36). The best way to prepare for His coming is to be a bold witness in your own city and the nations (Acts 1:8, Matthew 24:14).

## The Holy Spirit

### ***The Holy Spirit is God***

The Holy Spirit is the Presence of God in the here-and-now, today. Jesus said that He would send the Holy Spirit so that we would not be “orphans” (John 14:18). We are not “orphans” because now God is always with us through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells inside believers when they accept Christ (Ephesians 1:13).

### ***What the Holy Spirit is Like***

The following list describes some of the attributes of the Holy Spirit:

- *God (Genesis 1:12, Acts 5:3-4) - The Convictor of sin (John 16:8) - A Person (Revelation 22:17) - The Counselor (John 16:12-15) - The Comforter (John 16:7) - The Teacher (John 14:26) - The Presence of Jesus (1 Corinthians 5:3) - Gives us the power of God (Acts 1:8) - Guarantee of salvation (Ephesians 1:14) - Righteousness, Peace, and Joy (Romans 14:17)*

## Practical Response

For the next week, choose to read Luke 15 each day to reflect upon Jesus' teaching of the Father Heart of God.