

Small Group Discussion Guide 9/1/24

“Our Father in Heaven” Pastor Kate Wallace Nunneley

Opening Prayer: Begin with a prayer asking God to guide the discussion and open hearts to God’s truth and love.

Ice Breaker: In the sermon, pastor Kate shared the story of her son running to her as “mama.” Can you share a time when you felt love and acceptance like this? What impact did it have on you?

Scripture Reading: Read Matthew 6:9-13 (The Lord’s Prayer) and Luke 8:42-48 (The Healing of the Bleeding Woman).

Discussion Questions:

1. Reflecting on the Sermon:

- What stood out to you most from the sermon about understanding our identity in God as our Father?
- How does the imagery of God as a loving parent resonate with you personally?

2. Exploring the Lord’s Prayer:

- In the Lord’s Prayer, why do you think Jesus emphasized addressing God as “Our Father” instead of “My Father”?
- What does the phrase “in Heaven” signify about God's nature and presence in both the seen and unseen realms?

3. The Significance of Metaphors:

- The Bible uses various metaphors to describe God, such as a father, mother, shepherd, care giver, sustainer, provider, and warrior. Which of these metaphors resonates with you most in this season of your life? Why?
- How can understanding these different images of God enrich our relationship with God?

4. Personal Identity in Christ:

- Reflecting on the story of the bleeding woman being called “daughter” by Jesus, what does this teach us about how God sees us?

- What are some things you have built your identity on that might need to change? How can we build our identity more firmly on being God's child?
- What are practical ways we can remind ourselves daily that our primary identity is as a child of God?
- How does the image of a child running into their parent's arms help us understand how we should approach God in prayer?

Prayer

Spend time in prayer beginning with the words "Our Father in Heaven." Meditate on what it means to approach God in prayer as God's child and allow that truth to shape your prayers and your understanding of yourself.