



## **Week #2: The Way of the Father**

*Don't worry about anything. Instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

*"This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven..."*

Matthew 6:9 (NIV)

### **We Can Confidently Pray to Our Father Because:**

1. He is a \_\_\_\_\_.

*He is like a father to us, tender and sympathetic to those who reverence him.*

Psalms 103:13 (TLB)

*Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.*

1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

*"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' ...or, 'What shall we wear?' ...your heavenly Father knows you need them."*

Matthew 6:31-32 (NIV)

2. He is a \_\_\_\_\_.

*Every good and perfect gift... coming down from the Father... who does not change like shifting shadows.*

James 1:17 (NIV)

*If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.*

2 Timothy 2:13 (NIV)

*My God is changeless in his love for me...*

Psalms 59:10 (TLB)

3. He is a \_\_\_\_\_.

*God did this so that they would... reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.*

Acts 17:27 (NIV)

*The Lord is near to all who call on him.*

Psalms 145:18 (NIV)

*"If you...know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"*

Matthew 7:11 (NIV)

*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

Psalms 34:18 (NIV)

4. He is a \_\_\_\_\_.

*"For no word from God will ever fail."*

Luke 1:37 (NIV)

*Now glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of - infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.*

Ephesians 3:20 (TLB)

### **Discussion Questions**

1. As a child, did you have any concept about what God might be like? If so, where did your ideas about God come from? Have these views changed over time and if so, how?
2. Review some of the points of this message. Share moments in which you've experienced God in these ways (loving, consistent, present, powerful).
3. As you think about your relationships with your father and/or father figures, what can you invite God to celebrate with you? What can you ask God to heal?

### **Recommended Resources**

- *Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools*, by Tyler Stanton
- *Pray First: The Transformative Power of a Life Built on Prayer*, by Chris Hodges
- *How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People*, by Pete Greig
- *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy With God*, by Timothy Keller
- *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?*, by Philip Yancey

## **Week #2: The Way of the Father - FILL Copy**

*Don't worry about anything. Instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

*"This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven..."*

Matthew 6:9 (NIV)

### **We Can Confidently Pray to Our Father Because:**

1. He is a LOVING FATHER.

*He is like a father to us, tender and sympathetic to those who reverence him.*

Psalms 103:13 (TLB)

*Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.*

1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

*"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' ...or, 'What shall we wear?' ...your heavenly Father knows you need them."*

Matthew 6:31-32 (NIV)

2. He is a CONSISTENT FATHER.

*Every good and perfect gift... coming down from the Father... who does not change like shifting shadows.*

James 1:17 (NIV)

*If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.*

2 Timothy 2:13 (NIV)

*My God is changeless in his love for me...*

Psalms 59:10 (TLB)

3. He is a PRESENT FATHER.

*God did this so that they would... reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.*

Acts 17:27 (NIV)

*The Lord is near to all who call on him.*

Psalms 145:18 (NIV)

*“If you...know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”*

Matthew 7:11 (NIV)

*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

Psalms 34:18 (NIV)

4. He is a POWERFUL FATHER.

*“For no word from God will ever fail.”*

Luke 1:37 (NIV)

*Now glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of - infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.*

Ephesians 3:20 (TLB)

### **Discussion Questions**

1. As a child, did you have any concept about what God might be like? If so, where did your ideas about God come from? Have these views changed over time and if so, how?
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(NLT) New Living Translation

(NIV) New International Version

(TLB) Living Bible