

10 STEPS TO FREEDOM
 Week 3: Daddy Issues
 SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS



RECAP

In this third sermon tackling the issue of addiction, recovery and freedom, Josh walked through the third step to freedom: cultivating a relationship with our Heavenly Father, and answered a haunting question for many of us: does God still love me? He finished by giving us six ways to see God as a loving Father.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As much as you're comfortable, talk about your relationship (or lack thereof) with your earthly father. What memories stand out? How do you think that relationship has affected how you viewed or even continue to view God as your Heavenly Father?
2. If you're a parent (or even if you have nieces or nephews), talk about how your view of parents and parenthood has changed from when you were a child looking at your own parents. Would you say your view of God has grown since you were a child or has it remained the same?
3. The driving question this week was: *does God still love me?* Did you ever do anything as a child that made you think your parents wouldn't love you as much? Have you ever done anything that has made you question whether God still loves you?
4. Read Luke 11:11-13 and ask yourselves this question, "What does a perfect parent want *from* their children?" If a perfect parent only wants things *for* their children instead of *from* their children, how should that change the way we think about God as our perfect, loving Heavenly Father?
5. If your relationship with God was at the place where He was a loving, perfect Heavenly Father that you couldn't wait to spend time with, that you valued what He said about life and that you naturally wanted to be like Him, how much closer to freedom do you think you might be?

NEXT STEP

- Walk through the six words that make up a new way to interact with God as our Heavenly FATHER (in the message notes). For each of you, which one is the hardest to reconcile right now with your view of God? Which one do you need to hear the most in your life?

For more information (training and support) on how to start a small group, contact steve.lizzio@cbcva.org



CENTREVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018
WEEK 3: DADDY ISSUES
 LUKE 11:9-13

11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"
 ~~ Luke 11:11-13

Step Three to Freedom: **Cultivate a relationship with your** _____.

F - _____

H - _____

A - _____

E - _____

T - _____

R - _____

Bonus Content

- Sunday (Handout) - 7 Questions Worksheet on Luke 11:13 and Small Group Questions for this week
- Monday (Blog) - 6 Ways to See God as Your Heavenly FATHER
- Thursday (Facebook Live) - The Story Jesus Told That Should Forever Change the Way You View God
- Monday-Friday (Blog) - Devotionals from *10 Steps to Freedom* book

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LUKE 11:13

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If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" *Luke 11:13*

1. WHAT DID IT MEAN TO THE ORIGINAL READERS?

If you start with today you're twenty centuries too late.

In this teaching to his disciples, Jesus is utilizing an argument from relational logic to reframe the way we interact with God. In Jesus' day, human interaction with God was transactional and conditional. God would bless the people if they would obey His commandments. God would forgive their sins if they made the proper animal sacrifices at the temple. It was a relationship based on their ability to hold to their side of the bargain, making God's love and affection (from their perspective) completely conditional. If they disobeyed, God was under no obligation to bless them, forgive them, or have any type of relationship.

One of the main things Jesus did when he walked this earth was he reframed the way we interact with God. Of all the terms he used to refer to God, the primary way he referred to God (and taught his disciples to refer to God) was through a relational lens: Father, thus this relational logical argument. As his disciples, even if they weren't fathers yet themselves they knew enough about fatherhood to understand that their relationship with their children was not conditional or transactional. It was unconditional and relational. That's how Jesus taught his disciples (and us) to begin to interact with God: as our loving, perfect Heavenly Father. Rather than viewing God as a distant deity or a demanding taskmaster, Jesus taught his disciples to see God as a loving Father that willingly and joyfully gives good gifts to His children. The best gift God could ever give us is the Holy Spirit, His Spirit inside us as a deposit of our eternal salvation and the catalyst needed to transform us from the inside out and make us a new creation.

GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK

ὑπάρχω (*huparchō*) is the Greek word translated "you are" and it's not the usual word translated "you are." It means "to make a beginning" and differs from the normal word used for "you are" in that it has a backward look to an antecedent condition which has been protracted into the present. Thus in this verse Jesus is highlighting not our current state of evilness but referencing the sin nature that we were all afflicted with at birth. It's not a present condemnation as much as a recognition of a previous reality.

2. WHAT'S THE CONTEXT? *Scripture without context makes no sense.*

The context for Luke 11:13 is the first part of Luke 11, when the disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. Jesus teaches them what is commonly known as the "Lord's Prayer" and then reinforces the revolutionary idea that God is not a distant deity only grudgingly dispensing gifts when either forced to or manipulated, but He is a loving, doting Heavenly Father who is eagerly looking for opportunities to bless His children, just as a loving earthly father loves to bless his own children.

3. WHAT TIMELESS TRUTHS ARE THERE?

Since the Word doesn't change it still matters today.

- There is an innate sinfulness that all humankind is born with and born into, referred to in Scripture as our "sin nature."
- Even though humans are evil, we still have the capacity to show love and give good gifts to our loved ones.
- Our ability to be generous (even with our sin nature) only magnifies the goodness and generosity of God, who is unencumbered by a sin nature.
- God wants us to interact with Him primarily in the context of a relationship as our Father.

5. HOW DOES IT APPLY TODAY? *Information without application becomes stagnation.*

- If we don't view God as a loving, giving, doting, intimate Heavenly Father who loves to give good gifts to us, then we need to change the way we view Him.
- How men act (or fail to act) as fathers has a big impact on how children (and future adults) primarily interact with their Heavenly Father.
- An easy way to remember God as FATHER is: God is **F**or me, He is **A**lmighty, He's **T**ender, God is **H**ome, God is **E**nough and God **R**ejoices over me, because God is a loving, perfect, giving Heavenly Father.

7. HOW CAN MY LIFE GET BETTER BECAUSE OF THESE VERSES?

If I trust God and step in faith, what kind of life will God create?

Our lives can become infinitely better because of the life-changing truth behind this verse. Jesus wants us to radically change the way we interact with God. When God ceases to be a cold, distant figure and instead becomes a loving, giving, perfect Heavenly Father, we will have the fulfillment, purpose, belonging and love that can only come from being in right relationship with our Creator. God wants to overwhelm us with His love and His presence, and that's why the best gift God can ever give is His presence in us through the Holy Spirit. Imagine a life where you wake up and run to God because you can't wait to spend time with Him, where you walk in the daily knowledge that you are fully known and fully loved and that your Heavenly Father rejoices over you. Life doesn't get any better than that!

4. WHERE ELSE IN SCRIPTURE DOES IT SAY THIS?

The best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture.

15 Suppose a brother or a sister is (*huparchō*) without clothes and daily food. *James 2:15*

2 He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.'" *Luke 11:2*

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. *James 1:17*

6. HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE THE WAY I LIVE IN COMMUNITY? *The Bible comes alive in me when I live it in community.*

- Talk about your relationship (or lack of relationship) with your earthly father. How do you think that influences how you view your Heavenly Father?
- If you're a parent, does Jesus' logical relational argument (in Luke 11:13) make sense to you? Why do you love your children, because they're good or simply because they're yours? How should that change the way we see our Heavenly Father?