

# LIFE GROUP

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### The Love of the Father June 21, 2026

#### Summary

This Father's Day message focused on the incredible love God the Father has for His children. Using the story of the prodigal son and Jesus' words in John 15, Pastor Dale explained that we do not worship God to earn His love, but because we have already been welcomed and embraced by Him. The sermon showed how the Father loves Jesus perfectly, affirmingly, intimately and empoweringly—and that through Christ, God loves us in those same ways. His love is not based on our performance or accomplishments, but on the fact that we belong to Him. God delights in His children, stays close to them through every season, gives them purpose and strength through the Holy Spirit and invites them to live securely in His love every day.

#### Scripture

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17 (NIV)

"For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all He does. Yes, and He will show Him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed." (John 5:20)

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. John 15:9-17 (NIV)

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world." John 17:24 (NIV)

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs---heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. Romans 8:15-17 (NIV)

#### Let's Start

What part of the prodigal son story stands out to you most, and why?

#### Gratitude and Prayer

How has God been at work in your life since we last met?

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### Let's Talk

1. Pastor Dale said, "You don't worship to earn love, you worship because you've been embraced by your Father in Heaven." Why is that difference important?
2. How does understanding the Father's love help us **worship God fully** instead of trying to earn His approval?
3. Why do you think people often struggle to believe that God's love is not based on performance?
4. Which description of the Father's love—perfect, affirming, intimate or empowering—do you most need to remember right now?
5. What are some voices of guilt, shame or pressure that can keep us from hearing God say, "You are My beloved child"?
6. In what ways can parents, grandparents, friends or mentors reflect God's affirming love to others?
7. Pastor Dale gave three ways the Father loves us in an empowering way:
  - He gives us direction. (Proverbs 3:5-8)
  - He gives us purpose. (Matthew 28:19-20)
  - He gives us strength. (Ephesians 3:16)

How does knowing that God empowers and guides us change the way we approach everyday challenges, responsibilities or ministry?

### Let's Act

This week, spend a few quiet minutes each day reflecting on the Father's love for you. Read John 15:9-17 or Luke 15:20 slowly and thank God that His love is not based on your performance, but on His grace. Ask God to help you rest in His love and worship God fully—not to earn His approval, but because you already belong to Him. Then look for one opportunity to reflect the Father's love to someone else through encouragement, forgiveness or kindness.

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