



Best Gift Ever 4 – Everlasting Father Spiritual Formation Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take a next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Scripture:

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how MUCH MORE will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

Matthew 7:11

“Yahweh! The LORD! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin.”

Exodus 34:6-7a

“May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and GOD OUR FATHER, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal comfort and a wonderful hope, comfort you and strengthen you in every good thing you do and say.”

2 Thessalonians 2:16

Reflection Questions:

- Do you have a picture in your mind for what God looks like? What about Jesus? Can you describe it quickly?
- When is a time that you felt very loved?
- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, the story video, the message, and being together with others as part of the church? (The message main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- We've been zooming in on the different names for Jesus that were prophesied in Isaiah 9:6. Read that verse out loud together. Don't let the familiarity keep you from noticing details. What stands out to you today?
- Do you think of Jesus as a good Father? Read Matthew 7:11. How do you react to these words from Jesus?

- Read Exodus 34:6-7a. Read it in several translations. How does this description compare to the picture of God you described in the opening question?
- Eddie reminded us of these two reasons we have to celebrate & worship our Father:
 - We have a compassionate Father – Eddie quoted a saying that “God has a long fuse, a short memory, a thick skin, and a big heart.”
 - We have a constant Father – he is consistent. He is constant. He is unfailing. He is forever.
 Which characteristic do you need to hold onto today? Why?
- Read 2 Thessalonians 2:16 as your closing prayer. Read it slowly and be aware of God’s loving presence.

Want some resources and ideas for how to grow spiritually during the Advent and Christmas seasons?

Visit www.wschurch.org/advent.

Message Main Points and Scripture:

- **The Creator of the universe invites us to know him as our Father.**
- Isaiah 9 - “For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
- John 10:30 - “The Father and I are one.”
- Matthew 7:11 - “If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how MUCH MORE will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.”
- **WE HAVE A COMPASSIONATE FATHER**
- Exodus 10:3 - “Let my people go!”
- Exodus 34:6-7a – “Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin.”
- Psalm 103:8-12 - “The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.”
- **WE HAVE A CONSTANT FATHER**
- 2 Thessalonians 2:16 - “May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and GOD OUR FATHER, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal comfort and a wonderful hope, comfort you and strengthen you in every good thing you do and say.”