

Conversation Starters

- Who are some cultural examples of a father figure you admire?
- What characteristics lead to your admiration of that person?

Discuss

Father's play an important role in the life of a child. They are to provide protection, encouragement, instruction, support, love. Spiritually, they show us how to know God and relate to Him. The lack of a father can leave a child feeling lost, confused, un-loved.

- What has your experience been with regard to a father figure?
- How has that influenced your life?

God has a special place in His heart for the fatherless. He refers to Himself as our Father. He knows the importance of the role of the father and cares for those without one. He can fill any father-shaped hole.

But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless. ([Psalm 10:14 NIV](#))

You, Lord, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror. ([Psalm 10:17-18 NIV](#))

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. ([Psalm 68:5 NIV](#))

- How do you view God?
- What does it mean to call God "Father"?
- What characteristics of God show His father-like nature?

Without a father figure, we may not know how to relate to someone else that could fill that role, what to look for, or how we can let God fill that for us. The Bible gives us a clue of what that should look like:

With each of you we were like a father with his child, holding your hand, whispering encouragement, showing you step-by-step how to live well before God... ([1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 The Message](#))

- Do you have people in your life encouraging you?
- In what ways does or can God encourage you?

Next Steps

Do you have a father figure in your life? Write or send them a word of gratitude this week for how they have influenced your life.

Did you lack a father figure or still trying to figure out what that looks like in your life? Our [Foundations 101](#) class dives into who God is, and we think you'll be able to find out how He is our Father. You can also [let us know](#) however else we may help you.

Further Reflection

Read [Psalm 10:14, 17-18; 68:5](#) and [1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 The Message](#).

Pray

God, you know us and love us more than we can imagine. Thank you for your love and the relationship you offer us. Thank you for the Father figure that you are. Help us to see you that way. Show us where we need healing or how we lack seeing you as we should.