Conversation Starters

- Do you find it difficult to try relating with a supernatural God?
- In your opinion, what would that look like?

Discuss

Most people don't understand God as Father and instead see Him impersonally. Yet the Bible talks about God in a very personal way, like a father with his child.

"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." (<u>2 Corinthians</u> 6:18 NIV)

- Do you ever come to God this way?
- How do you most often think of God?
- What are some important father and son/daughter relational characteristics to you?

Crossing the line of faith to become a Christian does not only secure your eternity, but also includes an adoption as a child of God. In addition to the forgiveness of sins through God's grace, you enter into an intimate relationship with God.

For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:26 NLT)

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! (1 John 3:1a NIV)

And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. (Ephesians 3:18-19 NLT)

- Have you only thought about the Christian life in terms of salvation, neglecting relationship?
- Do you think of the Christian life wrapped up in a list of do's and don'ts?
- How does the passage from Ephesians help you begin to understand God's love?

Once we have our identity in Christ settled the next step is to then live in light of that and begin to relate to God. Jesus taught His followers to approach God as a father. It is a relationship that shapes us on a daily basis as we follow His leadership for every area of life.

"Pray like this: <u>Our Father</u> in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one." (<u>Matthew 6:9-13 NLT</u>, emphasis added)

- How do you allow God to speak into your life?
- Do you seek His leadership on a daily basis?
- Where might God be leading you right now?



Next Steps

As we discussed, a relationship is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian. Are you allowing that relationship to shape you on a daily basis? If you would like some help in this area, consider taking Training Camp, where you can learn more about what it means to relate to a supernatural God.

Regardless of where you're at, we all have a next step in our relationship with God and the church that He is building. Consider taking your next step this week at Meck.

Do you have any questions that are keeping you from a relationship with God? Meck is a place that welcomes all questions. Let us know how we may help!

Further Reflection

Read <u>Psalm 68:5</u>, <u>John 1:12</u>, <u>Romans 8:14-15</u>, <u>John 14:6</u>, <u>Romans 10:14</u> NLT.

Pray

God, you know everything there is and has ever been and everything about me. I am not perfect. Thank you for the grace and relationship that you offer. Thank you for sending Jesus to die for my sins. Thank you for being a loving and gracious Father. Please give me wisdom and lead me in every area of my life.