



## Sermon Discussion Guide

June 14 & 15, 2025

"Why Do Christians Call God Father?"

[Romans 8:14-17](#)

**10 Big Questions About the Christian Life** is a sermon series inviting us to wrestle with the most important questions of faith that shape how we live every day. Each week explores a key question that draws us deeper into God's truth and calls us to live out the hope of the resurrection. This series challenges us to move from belief to action, building a faith that transforms both our lives and the world.

### PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on [hopeonline.tv](#). Did you have any ah-ha moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What's been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

### GROW

#### Read [Romans 8:14-17](#) – "Life in the Spirit"

- What does it mean that God adopts us through the Spirit rather than simply tolerating us?
- Theologically, what does it mean to be a "child of God," and how is that different from simply being a creation of God?
- Why might Paul use the phrase "Abba, Father," and what does it reveal about the emotional closeness God offers us?
- How does knowing you're an heir of God's promises influence your perspective on challenges or suffering?

#### Read [Ephesians 5:1](#) – "Living in the Light"

- What does it mean that the Bible invites us to imitate God? How might that feel overwhelming to someone who's still unsure about faith?
- Why do you think Paul connects our identity as "dear children" to the command to imitate God?
- Can you recall a time when it felt especially difficult to reflect God's character in your actions or relationships?
- Theologically, what's the difference between imitating God to earn approval and imitating God because of already being loved?

#### Read [Luke 11:2-13](#) – "Teaching About Prayer"

- Why might Jesus begin the Lord's Prayer with "Father," and what does that reveal about how we're invited to relate to God? What might change in your life if you approached prayer as a conversation with a loving father rather than a formal ritual?
- What does this passage teach us about God's character, especially in how he responds to those who ask, seek, and knock?
- Why does Jesus compare earthly fathers giving good gifts to the way God gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask?
- How does your understanding of God as a perfect father shape the way you lead others in prayer or spiritual conversations?

#### Read [Psalm 103:13](#) – "A Psalm of David"

- What does it reveal about God's nature that he is described as having compassion "to those who fear him"?
- What does the phrase "fears him" really mean in this context? How does it shape our understanding of receiving God's compassion?
- Why is it significant that this verse links God's compassion to a parent-child relationship rather than a distant judge or ruler?
- How does this verse challenge common assumptions about God being harsh or distant, and what does that mean for how we represent him to others? What is one way you can extend God-like compassion in a leadership or relational role this week?

### APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week ...

- **Start with your identity.** Reflect daily on your identity as God's beloved child. Begin each morning by quietly praying, "Abba, Father, thank you for adopting me." Let that truth shape how you approach your day—with confidence, humility, and security.
- **Reflect God's compassion.** Choose one way to imitate God's love and compassion in a relationship that's currently strained. Ask yourself, "How would my Father in heaven respond here?" Then, take a specific step to mirror that love—whether it's offering forgiveness, listening with patience, or speaking with gentleness.
- **Pursue someone with love.** Identify one person in your life who is spiritually seeking or disconnected, and intentionally reach out to reflect God's fatherly compassion. Share part of your own story of how God's love has shaped your identity. Invite them to talk, pray, or attend something with you—not to fix them, but to walk with them.