Bible Study Guide

THE FATHER'S HEART



A Bible Study on God's Love, Compassion, and the Prodigal's Return

Introduction

In Jesus' parable, a father saw his returning son while he was still a great way off. Rather than waiting for the son to prove his worth, the father ran to meet him. The story reveals a heart that longs for the restoration of His children. Scripture gives many such glimpses of the compassion, joy, and self-sacrificing love of our heavenly Father.

Fill in the blanks from the KJV text, then read the brief explanation.

Bible Study Questions

1 **What does the psalmist call children from the Lord?** (Psalm 127:3)

"Lo, children are an _____ of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

Children are a gift entrusted to us, not possessions to control. God's care for them reflects His own character.

2 **What manner of love has the Father bestowed on us?** (1 John 3:1)

"that we should be called the _____:"

God's love invites believers into a genuine family relationship with Him.

3 **What is found in the presence of God?** (Psalm 16:11)

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is _____; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

The Father's presence is a source of lasting joy. He invites His children to draw near, not flee from Him.

4 **How did the father respond to the returning son?** (Luke 15:20)

"his father saw him, and had _____, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him."

The Father's welcome illustrates divine mercy toward the repentant sinner.

5 **What did Jesus reveal about the Father?** (John 14:9)

"he that hath seen me hath seen the _____;"

The life and character of Jesus reveal the Father's compassion and love.

6 **Whom does the Lord pity as a father pities his children?** (Psalm 103:13)

"Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth _____."

God's compassion reaches into the actual suffering of His people. He knows our weakness and cares for us.

7 **Why may we give God our burdens?** (1 Peter 5:7)

"Casting all your care upon him; for he _____ for you."

Our burdens matter to our heavenly Father; we need not bear them alone.

8 **What did the suffering Messiah carry on our behalf?** (Isaiah 53:4-5)

"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our _____... But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities."

Christ willingly bore our grief and our sin. His sacrifice reveals the Father's self-giving love.

9 **What assurance does the Father's gift of His Son give us?** (Romans 8:32)

"He that spared not his own _____, but delivered him up for us all,"

The gift of Christ is the deepest evidence of God's willingness to save.

10 **What did Jesus tell those who would prevent children from coming to Him?** (Mark 10:14–15)

"Suffer the little children to come unto me, and _____: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein."

Christ welcomed children and rebuked barriers that kept them away. His kingdom values their trust and dependence.

11 **Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?** (Matthew 18:4)

"Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little _____, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Christ values humble dependence rather than ambition and self-importance.

12 **What must we become like to enter the kingdom of heaven?** (Matthew 18:3)

"Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as _____, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus calls for humble, teachable dependence rather than self-sufficient religious confidence.

13 **What replaces the spirit of bondage?** (Romans 8:15)

"ye have received the Spirit of _____, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

God receives believers into His family and teaches them to approach Him in trust.

14 **How should God's forgiven people treat one another?** (Ephesians 4:32)

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, _____ one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Receiving mercy changes how we respond to others' mistakes.

15 **What is written in the foreheads of the Lamb's redeemed people?** (Revelation 14:1)

"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his _____ written in their foreheads."

The redeemed belong to God and reflect His character. His fatherly love becomes visible in their lives.

16 **What happens as believers behold the Lord's glory?** (2 Corinthians 3:18)

"are changed into the same _____ from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

The Spirit transforms those who look to Christ in faith.

17 **Why do we love God?** (1 John 4:19)

"We love him, because he _____ loved us."

Our love is a response to the prior love of God.

Appeal

Will you come to the Father with the trust of a child, receive His love in Christ, and allow that love to shape the way you treat others?

Commitment

I choose to receive my heavenly Father's love, trust Him as His child, and reflect His compassion to those around me.

_____

Signature

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