

I And The Father

Jesus' life with Dad:

John 10:29-42

Jesus uses His relationship with His **FATHER**
to show us our relationship to **GOD**.

Jesus defined the **CHARACTER** of who the **FATHER** is.

How do I **DEFINE** who the **FATHER** is?

My life with Dad:

FORGIVE like you have been forgiven.

SEE THE FATHER for who He truly is.

RUN TO THE FATHER because He is faithfully running toward you.

Your life with Dad:

I And The Father

Jesus' life with Dad:

John 10:29-42

Jesus uses His relationship with His _____
to show us our relationship to _____.

Jesus defined the _____ of who the _____ is.

How do I _____ who the _____ is?

My life with Dad:

_____ like you have been forgiven.

_____ for who He truly is.

_____ because He is faithfully running toward you.

Your life with Dad:

Food for Thought for the week of June 18, 2023

1. As we reflect on the family story Arnold shared about his father and stepfather and the role forgiveness played in restoring their relationships, the Bible shares a story about a family that would also need restoration through forgiveness. To understand the background of this family and how they acted toward one another, read Genesis 37:1-8.

Genesis 37:1-8 New International Version (NIV)

Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.

² *This is the account of Jacob's family line.*

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

³ *Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. ⁴ When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.*

⁵ *Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. ⁶ He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: ⁷ We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."*

⁸ *His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.*

How would you describe the family dynamics in Jacob's family? How are they similar or different from your family or your relationship with your father?

2. With the dysfunction in Jacob's family growing, read Genesis 37:23-27 to see how his sons endeavor to remedy their family differences.

Genesis 37:23-27 New International Version (NIV)

²³ *So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing— ²⁴ and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.*

²⁵ *As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.*

²⁶ *Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? ²⁷ Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.*

Contrasting Jacob's family, how is conflict remedied in your family?

If Jacob's family lived next door to you, what would be your prayer for them? What is your prayer for your own family today?

3. Nearly 20 years passed before Joseph received a letter from his father asking for him to forgive his brothers. Read Genesis 50:15-21 to see how Joseph responded.

Genesis 50:15-21 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Like Joseph, have you ever received a request for forgiveness? How did you respond? Had you already forgiven them before they asked like Arnold talked about in his story?

With Arnold and Joseph's stories in mind, is there a story of forgiveness you need to write and give to someone in your own life?