



# Series Overview and Guides

2022-2023 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 5

FEBRUARY - APRIL

## Objective

*what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study*

That we know the Father and make Him known.

### STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"All you have made will thank you, LORD; the faithful will bless you. They will speak of the glory of your kingdom and will declare your might, informing all people of your mighty acts and of the glorious splendor of your kingdom."

—Psalm 145:10-12

"Nothing will so enlarge the intellect, nothing so magnify the whole soul of man, as a devout, earnest, continued investigation of the great subject of the Deity...The proper study of the Christian is the Godhead. The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can engage the attention of a child of God is the name, the nature, person, the doings, and the existence of the great God which he calls Father."

—Charles Spurgeon  
*Sermon on Malachi 3:6*

## Premise

*why we are studying this*

Our lack of understanding about God the Father causes us to wander from our calling to holiness, misapprehend how to activate love, worry unnecessarily, and misunderstand human family relationships.

### STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"He did this [created humans & nations] so that they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. For in him we live and move and have our being, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also his offspring.' Since, then, we are God's offspring, we shouldn't think that the divine nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image fashioned by human art and imagination."

—Acts 17:27-29

"An unknown God can neither be trusted, served, nor worshipped."

—Arthur W. Pink  
*The Attributes of God*

## Theme

*what the study is about*

God the Father is not only one Person of the Trinity, He is indeed The Father. He is the ever-existent creator, benevolent Abba, the God who reigns, plans, sacrifices, judges, and harmonizes. Theology Proper – the study of God, especially His Fatherhood – is a must for real love to be understood, much less activated.

### STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"Yet you are our Father, even though Abraham does not know us and Israel doesn't recognize us. You, LORD, are our Father; your name is Our Redeemer from Ancient Times."

—Isaiah 64:16

"It seems fairly clear to me that the pressure on conservative theology is still building up from exponents of religious relativism and pluralism...Countering it, I predict, will be the next round in the church's unending task of defending and propagating the gospel. If this guess is right, we shall be badly at a disadvantage if we have not taken pains to brush up our theism, since the question of theism – whether or not we are going to think about God the Christian way or some other way – will be at the heart of that debate."

—J.I. Packer  
*Knowing Christianity*



Frisco Bible Church  
*a redeemed community*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SERIES 5 | SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2022-2023

ACTIVATE

SCRIPTURE READING

Selected Scriptures

KEY IDEAS

THEME

God is eternally God. He is real, and knowing He exists is critical for relating to both our Father and ourselves.

OBJECTIVE

We love the Father.

THE MASTER SCIENCE

“Other subjects we can comprehend and grapple with; in them we feel a kind of self-contentment, and go on our way with the thought, ‘I am wise.’ But when we come to this master science, finding that our plumbline cannot sound its depth, and that our eagle eye cannot see its height, we turn away with the thought, ‘I am but of yesterday and know nothing.’”

—Charles Spurgeon  
*Sermon on Malachi 3:6*

GOD OUR FATHER

“We love our parents, and God does want us to be in a relationship with them. However, you need a relationship with God the Father. ...know that you have a heavenly Father who is close to you. He is willing to hear you and ready to be close to you.”

—Sandra Hammer Smith  
*Why is God Known as Our Father?*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we study to deepen our theology and love of God our Father.

## Session 1: Love Exists

1. Read the Theme of this series on page 1 of the study guide. How would you characterize your personal understanding of the theology of God the Father?
2. Read Exodus 3:11-15 together.
  - a. What did God expect from Israel in return for breaking their slavery to Egypt?
  - b. What was the name given by God to Moses and the Hebrews? What did that name tell them about God?
  - c. Read Hebrews 11:6. How is belief that God exists a matter of faith?
  - d. Why is belief that God exists not all that is required? What else is required? Compare James 2:19.
3. Read Luke 11:1-2. What is the name for God revealed to us by Jesus?
  - a. How is the name of “Father” different than the name of “Yahweh”?
  - b. How is the relationship of a Christian to God as Father different than the relationship of an Israelite to Yahweh?
4. One characteristic of God our Father is that He is love (agape). Read 1 John 4:13-19.
  - a. Every form of the word “love” in this section is from the Greek word agape. How is agape different than other senses of the word “love”?
  - b. What are some of the direct applications to us in this section of the fact that God is agape?
5. What are some truths which directly result from the combined facts that God is eternally existing, God is our Father, and God is love (agape)?



SERIES 5 | SESSION 2

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2022-2023

ACTIVATE

SCRIPTURE READING

Selected Scriptures

KEY IDEAS

THEME

God the Father is the creator, ruler, and orderly organizer. Apprehending this adds important boundaries regarding God, humans, and the world. These boundaries protect us from anarchy and confusion. Inside, we experience protection and importance as we find the freedom to create in the name of our Creator. Thus, we are neither antagonistically seeking fame through rebellion nor stymied in formalistic conservatism. We can create!

OBJECTIVE

We create in God's name.

DOCTRINE OF CREATION

"In the West, classical philosophy stemming from Plato and Aristotle came together with the Biblical doctrine of creation to affirm a different ideal of what it means to be authentically human. To be happy, humans need to bow before the sovereignty of the good. The 'good' is primarily God and the way God has designed and created us. The source of our being (God) contains the clue to our purpose, and only by knowing and seeking that purpose can we be happy."

—Craig A. Carter

*Gender theory and the doctrine of creation*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we create beauty in the name of our Creator.

## Session 2: Love Creates

1. Give some examples of wise boundaries in your own life. Why are they wise?
  
2. Read Proverbs 8:22-31.
  - a. Why can there be no order without boundaries?
  
  - b. What is the end result of wise boundaries and the order they produce?
  
3. Read and discuss the following examples of boundary violation. In each case, what boundary was violated and what was or is the end result?
  - a. Genesis 3
  
  - b. Romans 1:21-25
  
  - c. Romans 1:28-32
  
4. Read Acts 26:12-18.
  - a. Describe the change in Saul once he understood and began living by the God-given boundaries for his life. What did God accomplish through him?
  
  - b. What are some other examples of Christians working within God's boundaries who were used by Him to change the world?
  
  - c. Read and discuss Ephesians 2:10. What does this look like on a day-to-day basis?

