

THE GREATER FATHER

Lonnie Arnold

June 21, 2026

TIP FOR A GREAT GROUP DISCUSSION

Father's Day conversations can stir a wide range of emotions. Some people have wonderful memories of their fathers. Others carry wounds, disappointment, grief, or absence. Be sensitive and avoid assuming everyone's experience is the same. Keep bringing the conversation back to this central truth:

Our understanding of God is not meant to be limited by our earthly fathers. God is the Greater Father.

Create space for honesty while pointing people toward hope.

ICEBREAKER

- What's one quality you admire in a great father, mentor, or parent figure?
 - Who has had a positive influence on your life, and what made that influence meaningful?
-

SUNDAY REFLECTION

Before we dive in:

- What stood out to you from Sunday's message?
 - What part encouraged or challenged you most?
-

OPENING PRAYER

Father, thank You for revealing Yourself to us through Jesus. Help us see You more clearly tonight. Where our experiences have shaped us incorrectly, renew our minds with Your truth. Help us understand Your love and live from our identity as Your children. Amen.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Every earthly father is imperfect. Some fathers leave us with gratitude. Others leave us with questions, wounds, or unmet longings. Scripture points us to a greater reality:

God is the Greater Father.

Through Jesus, we see the heart of the Father. His love is deeper than any human love. His acceptance is stronger than our failures. His inheritance is richer than anything this world can offer.

Because of Christ:

- We are loved.
- We are adopted.
- We belong.
- We are heirs.
- We are being transformed.

The Father's love doesn't simply comfort us—it changes us. As we receive His love, we learn how to love others.

KEY SCRIPTURES

- 1 John 3:1
 - Psalm 103:13
 - Romans 8:15–17
 - Ephesians 1:3–14
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18
 - Philippians 1:6
-

KEY TAKEAWAYS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The Greater Love - God's love exceeds every earthly example.

Discussion Questions:

- Which description of God's fatherly love stands out most to you: His compassion, faithfulness, protection, sacrifice, or comfort?
 - How has your experience with earthly fathers influenced the way you relate to God?
 - Why is it important to separate God's character from human imperfections?
-

2. The Greater Identity - Through Christ, we are adopted into God's family.

Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean to you personally to be called a child of God?
 - Which identity do you tend to live from more often: your past, your performance, or your position as God's child?
 - Why do people struggle to believe they are fully accepted by God?
-

3. The Greater Inheritance - God doesn't just give us blessings—He gives us Himself.

Discussion Questions:

- When you hear the word inheritance, what comes to mind?
- How does God's inheritance differ from what the world values?
- Why do you think we often focus more on God's gifts than God's presence?

4. The Greater Transformation - The Father's love changes how we live and love.

Discussion Questions:

- Which of these areas do you most need God's transformation right now?
 - Being present
 - Showing compassion
 - Offering forgiveness
 - Speaking blessing
 - Loving sacrificially
- How have you seen God's love change you over time?

GROUP APPLICATION: Living as Sons and Daughters

Take a quiet moment and reflect: **"What truth about my Heavenly Father do I most need to embrace right now?"**

Then share:

- "One thing God is teaching me about His love is _____."
- "One way I want to reflect the Father's heart this week is _____."

Examples of Next Steps

- Spending intentional time with God as Father
- Replacing a false belief with biblical truth
- Forgiving someone who hurt you
- Encouraging a child, spouse, friend, or coworker
- Being more present with your family
- Speaking blessing instead of criticism
- Trusting God with an area of fear or insecurity

Keep it practical and specific.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for loving us perfectly. Thank You for adopting us into Your family through Jesus and giving us an inheritance that can never be taken away. Help us live securely as Your sons and daughters and reflect Your love to the people You've placed in our lives. Transform us by Your grace so that others experience Your heart through us. Amen.