

PRE SCHOOL
GUIDE
7

GOD IS THE PERFECT FATHER

FOUNDATION: GOD IS FATHER - GOD GIVES A FAMILY

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS THE PERFECT FATHER

Matthew 7:7-11; Hebrews 12:7-11; Psalm 84:11; Romans 8:12-17

BIBLE VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 8:6

“Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist.”

BIG IDEAS

- God is Father and the Father is good.
- The Father loves His children perfectly.
- We can trust the Father because He cares for us.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 11:9-13; 12:22-31

Luke's book is one of the four gospels and it tells us about the life of Jesus. We learn in these verses that God is our Father and He cares for us, His children, very much. God cares about even the tiniest of details in the lives of His children. Luke records Jesus as He teaches His disciples about the depth of the Father's love for us.

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God is our heavenly Father. The Bible teaches that God is three in one. He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As Father, God rules over all things, is greater than all things, and loves sinful people by sending His one and only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross in our place. God becomes the Father of those who place their faith in Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that God is the perfect Father who lovingly adopts us into His family through faith in His Son. Because God is Father we can become a part of a new family that will last forever.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God is three in one
- God is the perfect Father



Every child should feel:

- Loved by the family at home and church



Every child should be able to:

- Pray to the Father in the name of Jesus



Every child should want:

- To trust the perfect Father who loves His children

FAMILY DEVOTION: THE FATHER PROVIDES OUR NEEDS

God is our Father and He loves each one of us perfectly. He cares for us and provides us with everything we need.



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BIBLE VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 8:6

“Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist.”

God is the Father and We Were Created for His Glory.

God is seen as our Father in Paul’s first letter to the church at Corinth.

- As Paul is correcting and reminding the Corinthian believers that God is the only God, he emphasizes God’s relationship as Father to His believers.
- God is not only the creator of all things, but He is our Father.
- He interacts with us as a Father.

Those who believe in Jesus Christ are God’s children.

- Believers are part of God’s family and considered His children.
- He provides every need as He promises in His Word.

All things come from the Father.

- Everything that exists is from the Father.
- Nothing created itself or came from any other source, but the Father.
- God is the protector and provider for all life.

All things and people exist for the Father.

- The Father is not only creator, but all of creation exists for Him.
- We are created for His glory.
- We bring Him glory when we live for Him as He commands us in His Word.

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BIBLE STORY: LUKE 11:9-13; 12:22-31

The Good Father

Supporting Scripture: Psalm 84:11, Romans 8:15-16, Philippians 4:19, I Corinthians 13:8, I Kings 8:39

Teacher Introduction:

The book of Luke is one of four gospels that tells of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. While Jesus was on earth, He taught His disciples an important truth about the believer's relationship to God—He is our Father. The truth that believers are God's children changes how we view God. He is mighty and holy and yet He chooses to interact with us as His children. He is our Father and we are His children. Even as we pray, we pray to God as our Father, an intimate relationship that expresses a great depth of love. We see the Father's great love again when Jesus explains its depths to His followers. The Father cares about even the hairs on our heads and is involved in the smallest details of our lives. We are the most beloved of all His creation.

Teaching Guide:

The guide below is provided to help you teach the foundational truth "*God is the Perfect Father.*" The three points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share the narrative *The Good Father*. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson, questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the truth---*The Good Father*.

Opening Illustration:

(Have a discussion with the preschoolers about what it means to be perfect. On the board or a poster board make two columns. One should say "Perfect" and the other should say "Imperfect". Help them list the reasons something is perfect and the reasons it's not. For example: Something is perfect if it doesn't have or make any mistakes. Something is imperfect if there are mistakes.)

- What are some things that are perfect, or without mistakes? (There are no mistakes in it.)
- Are people perfect? (No, they make mistakes. Get mad or hurt someone by accident.)
- God is our Father and He is the perfect Father.
- He does not make mistakes and He always cares for us.

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GOD IS THE PERFECT FATHER

BIG IDEA: GOD IS FATHER AND THE FATHER IS GOOD.

God is our Father.

- As Jesus ministered on earth, He taught His disciples many things about God.
- As He taught them how to pray, He also taught them how they should relate to God as their Father.¹
- Those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ are God's children and He is their Father.

Not only is God our Father, He is good.

- God is perfect in all things, making Him a good Father.
- All that He does for His children is good and right.
- Jesus shows how the Father is good when He tells His disciples that anyone who asks, seeks and knocks receives from the Father.

God is a good Father because He does not fail His children.

- Jesus reminds His followers that God does not withhold good things from His children.²
- God's promises are true and He promises He will provide exactly what His children need.³
- God in His great love for us has called us out of slavery to sin and into a relationship with Him.⁴

How are our lives better because God is our Father? (We do not have to worry about anything because God will always take care of us.)



Help the preschoolers memorize I Corinthians 8:6 by playing beanbag toss with them. Mark three spots on the floor. Label them ONE, TWO, and THREE. If they land on ONE, they have to recite the verse aloud. If they land on TWO, they have to sing the verse to the tune of "Mary Had A Little Lamb". If they land on THREE, they have to march around the room saying the verse aloud.

1. Luke 11:1-4: In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches His disciples how they should relate to God as their Father. The Greek and Hebrew words for "Father" used in these verses are the words used for earthly fathers. God is our Father.

2. Psalm 84:11: The Psalmist understood the character of God as Father when He said that God does not withhold any good thing from His children. We cannot define "good" according to our wisdom, but we must trust God and submit to His wisdom which is greater than ours. Even difficult things can be "good" things for us.

3. Philippians 4:19: Paul writes to the church at Philippi, reminding them of God's provision for them. In the same way, God, the Father provides the needs of His children, or those who believe in Him.

4. Romans 8:15-16: Those who have believed in Jesus are adopted into the family of God. Because the Father has adopted us, we are no longer slaves to sin and fear of death. Instead, we are children of God and call Him "Abba. Father."

BIG IDEA: THE FATHER LOVES HIS CHILDREN PERFECTLY.⁵**God's love for His children is perfect because it is eternal.**

- In the book of Luke, Jesus tells His followers that anyone who asks to know the Father will not be denied.
- God does not turn away His children, nor does He stop loving them.⁶
- Other things in this world will pass away, but the Father's love for His children will continue now and into eternity.

The Father loves His children perfectly because He loves them as they need to be loved.

- The Father knows us more intimately than we even know ourselves; therefore, He loves us exactly as we need.⁷
- Everything the Father does for His children is exactly what they need at that very time for that very purpose.⁸
- Jesus reminded His followers that the Father is available to His children. All they have to do is seek Him.

The Father loves His children perfectly because His love is fulfilling.

- The Father's love completes the void left in man's heart by sin.
- His love is a love so true and complete, it is satisfying.⁹
- His love is revealed through His great sacrifice for His children.¹⁰
- Because the Father knows the hearts of His children, He knows how to best make them happy.
- In Luke 11:9-13, we are reminded that we need to continually seek the Father to know Him and be known by Him.

How is the Father's love for us perfect? (He understands us and knows us, so He knows how to best love us.)

5. Romans 8:37-39, I John 3:1: God loves His children perfectly. He will never forsake them and He calls us His children though we sinned against Him. Nothing can separate us from God's love.

6. 1 Corinthians 13:8: Love does not end. God is love; therefore, His love for His children does not end.

7. Jeremiah 17:10: God knows and understands the recesses of man's mind and heart. He is a just judge and loves us enough to give us what we need, whether that is mercy or correction.

8. 1 Kings 8:39: In Solomon's prayer of dedication, he understands that the Father knows the hearts of man better than anyone else. He also understands that because the Father knows, He can best minister and work in the lives of men. His ways are perfect.

9. Psalm 37:4; 20:4: God delights in giving His children their desires when their hearts are fully committed to Him and His purposes. His love is satisfying.

10. John 3:16: The Father's sacrifice of His Son is enough to fulfill our every need and desire. He is enough.

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BIG IDEA: WE CAN TRUST THE FATHER BECAUSE HE CARES FOR US.¹¹

The Father cares for His children more than the rest of creation.

- Jesus reminds His disciples of the Father's great love when He tells them to consider the beauty of the birds and the flowers.
- Yet the rest of creation does not work for it and God provides for them.
- The Father's children are of greater value to Him.
- We can trust Him as Father because He promises to care for us.¹²

The Father hears when we ask.

- Jesus taught His disciples an important truth about seeking the Father in Luke 12.
- Because we can trust the Father to care for us, we don't have to worry about our basic needs.
- We can instead focus on seeking to know the Father and pleasing Him.
- If God provides for the birds and the flowers, He will provide so much more for His children.¹³
- The Father's care for His children is patient and kind.
- He is all-knowing and understands the very hearts of His children.
- Because He has always kept His promises, we can trust that He will care for us always.¹⁴



Talk with the preschoolers about the ways God cares for us. On the board or a piece of paper, help them make a list of the things He provides for His children. Some examples are: food, water, clothing, the sun, air we breathe, our friends, families, etc. Lead them in a prayer thanking the Father for His tender care of us.

Why can we trust the Father? (He cares for us and has always kept His promises to us.)

11. Luke 12:22-31: As Jesus taught His disciples about their purpose, He reminded them that they have a Father who knows their every need and takes care of them. God provides for His children in great ways.

12. Psalm 103:8: The Father is abounding in love for His children. He is not quickly angered; instead He is patient and long-suffering.

13. Psalm 103:13: The Father's love for His children is greater than anything else. He hears their cries and seeks to care for them.

14. Deuteronomy 7:9: God is steadfast and faithful and He does not break His promises. He can be trusted to always care for us.

HOOKS

**God is the Perfect Father**

Help the preschoolers understand that God is our Father by singing I Corinthians 8:6 with them to the tune of “Mary Had A Little Lamb”. Remind them that God is our Father and He is the perfect Father.



- Who is our Father? (God is our Father.)
- What kind of Father is God? (He is a perfect Father.)

**The Father Loves His Children Perfectly**

Gather together colorful flowers. These can be fresh cut flowers, flowers in pots, or pictures of flowers. Talk with the preschoolers about the flowers’ colors and how pretty they are.

- Who made the flowers? (God made the flowers.)
- God is our Father and He will provide for us a lot more than He does for these flowers.
- The Father loves us more than He loves these flowers.

**We Can Trust the Father**

Make a “Trust List.” Gather enough pieces of blank cardstock for each preschooler to have his or her own copy. Prior to class, cut out or print off pictures of things we can trust the Father with; for example, a picture of food, water, and clothes. Have enough pictures so the preschoolers can choose some for their piece of cardstock and help them paste them on their paper. Allow them to color and decorate their “Trust List” and tell them they can take it home and keep it somewhere they can easily see it to remember that they can trust the Father to care for them.

- How can we trust the Father? (We can trust Him to give us our needs and to care for us.)
- Who is the perfect Father? (God is the perfect Father. He loves us perfectly.)
- What can we trust the Father to provide for us? (We can trust that He will provide our needs and always protect us.)