



Engage Page: Discovering Your Father's Voice

The importance in our society of the role of fathers has been well documented for years. We all come from different experiences when it comes to our fathers. If we created a list of words to describe all the possible relationship experiences with dads we would find a spectrum of responses from good to bad or even none at all. While we may choose different words to describe our personal experiences, we can all agree on one thing – that for better or worse, the effect of fatherhood is a powerful one. The good news is this – no matter what your experience has been, you have a heavenly Father who is the father you've always wanted and needed. Learning to hear his voice is one of the most powerful things you can ever experience. So this week we want to help you to get started.

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

How has your personal experience with your dad or other authority figures affected your perception of God as a Father? Why is it helpful to take a look at this?

So the first step is to look to Jesus is your starting point. Read aloud John 10:30 (p.1216 *Christian Basics Bible*), Hebrews 1:1-3 (p.1396), and Colossians 1:15 (p.1362).

1. How does knowing Jesus enable us to know who God the Father is and what he is like?

A good prayer to help you: “Father, help me to know you as you really are; not just who I think you are.”

2. Hearing the voice of God as your Father becomes clearer when you become his child. Read aloud John 1:10-13 (p.1199) which shows the promise for those who place their trust in Christ. Once you have taken that step, then Romans 8:15-16 (p.1291) comes into play. How does your personal experience align with these promises?

3. Finally, read Matthew 3:16-17 (p.1072). This is the template for how our heavenly Father speaks over his children. Note how this addresses our deepest needs and greatest wounds:

“This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy”

- “This is my...” = Belonging
- “my dearly loved...” = Worth
- “my dearly loved son...” = Identity
- “who brings me great joy...” = Acceptance

Insert your name in the blank in order to begin to open your heart to hear your heavenly Father speaking to you.

“You are my dearly loved child, _____, and you bring me great joy.”

Close in prayer by asking your heavenly Father to help you to hear him and all that he wants to say to you. Be ready to share next week what your experience is.

Memory Verse:

“...a voice from heaven said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.”

Matthew 3:16-17

Recommended Reading:

Wild At Heart, book by John Eldredge (for men)

Discerning God's Voice book by Priscilla Shirer