



I will build my church

Session 1: A Loved Community

God the Father



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Experience of Fatherhood

Love

Anxiety

Pride

Frustration

Protection

Anger

Discipline

Joy...



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Fatherlessness

Britain facing a 'crisis of fatherlessness'

Almost half of all children born today will not be living with both parents by the time they are 15

Claims by Centre for Social Justice (Observer 12/2/2017)

Perhaps we need to rediscover the Fatherhood of God...



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The Prodigal Son

Or, the grumpy brother
Or, the recklessly loving father...
(Luke 15.11-32)

VIDEO



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The Prodigal Son

What does this parable tell us about God as Father?

Discuss...



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God *as* Father

God as Father of his children

In both Old Testament and New

Two sides to God's character as Father: his greatness and holiness and his love and care



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God *the* Father

The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

The Father of his children who are *in Christ* through redemption and rebirth



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God as exemplary Father?

What can human fathers learn from the fatherhood of God?

Discuss...



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Our Father

Spurgeon: both Sonship and Brotherhood
Praying 'Our Father' has implications!



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An invitation from the Father

VIDEO: The Father's Love Letter