

# La Familia de Dios

## 6 - God is a Good Father

**Open by asking:** *"How is everyone doing?"*

**Introduction:** *"We're taking a look at what life is like in la Familia de Dios. Families are all about relationships, so each week we're taking a look at different passages from the Bible that talk about how we relate to God and to each other. Our own families shape how we relate to God--good, bad, or ugly--and it's easy to assume that a relationship with God is just like our relationships with others in our lives. God calls us family, so the point of our discussion is to find out what God himself says about what exactly that means...how it can be similar to and different from what we experience in our families."*

*"Last week we talked about family resemblance...if we're part of God's family there are certain traits we should expect to develop. Here's the idea we're talking about this week: God is a good father. Describe what makes a good father--what is a good father like; what is he NOT like? Why do you think that?"*

[Note: Be aware that this might bring out some hard memories about people's childhood or homes. The idea that we want to express is that where there are good things about our dads, God is those things. But where our own dads are lacking, God is good and perfect in his role as a Father to us.]

### Transition to the Scriptures:

Read Matthew 6:25-34. After you read it, discuss these questions together:

#### Questions for discussion:

- *What's the main thing this passage is saying?*
- *What does this say about God being a good father?*
- *What is the reason Jesus gives for why we shouldn't worry? How can a relationship keep you from worrying or make you worry more?*
- *What do you think it means to "seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness" in verse 33? What does this have to do with trusting our Heavenly Father?*

*"God provides for our needs, but that's not all it means to be a good father. The Bible also says that God loves us deeply, the way a good Father should."*

Read Luke 15:11-32. After you read it, share these notes with the group: *Often Jesus would use stories, called "parables," to explain deep spiritual truths. This is one story Jesus told to explain just what kind of father he is.*

#### Questions for discussion:

- *When the younger brother asked for his inheritance, that was like wishing his father was dead. How do you think your dad would react if you treated him like that?*
- *What made the younger brother return home? What does this say about what he believed about his father?*
- *How does the Father treat him when he returns? How do you think that would go down in your own family?*
- *How does this relate to the idea we mentioned earlier? "Good fathers take care of their families."*

### Apply it to Life:

- *Imagine yourself in the story about the two sons. When you think about your relationship with God, who in the story do you identify most with? What would you like your relationship with God to be like, compared to how it is now?*
- *Being in God's family is about trust on a lot of different levels--trusting him for our future, our provision--what are some ways you'd like to learn to trust our heavenly Father more?*
- *How do you learn to trust our Father God more? [Think about how you would learn to trust anyone else more.]*

**Pray Together:** *"Let's wrap up our time by praying for each other and asking God to help us experience these truths more this week."*