



## Dgroup Discussion Guide for June 17, 2018 **FATHERS 2.0**

The greatest gift that a father can give his kids is an example of a godly life. It is by your example that kids will learn to study the bible, to love God, to love life, to love their neighbors. It is when you bear fruits of the Spirit that your children will learn that there is no other life than a life filled with Jesus. And this is the most priceless gift that you can ever give. But before all that, we must first know: Who we are. Whose we are. And What are we here for.

### WHO I AM

Romans 3:23 says **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.** We are not perfect. We make mistakes. We are still human. This is our reality. We are fallible, we are sinners. We are also a product of our parents. Exodus 20:4-6 mentions of the iniquities of the fathers through the generations. We are products of who are parents were and how we were raised. But despite all our imperfections and our sin, God has forgiven us. (Ephesians 4:31-32) And it is because He first forgave us, because He first loved us that we too are encouraged to be **kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving to each other just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.**

We make allowances for our human nature, make allowances for each other because we are all still in the process of being perfected in Christ Jesus. We shouldn't focus then on our imperfections rather, we should keep our eyes focused on what really matters and that is that God loves us.

Genesis 1:26-27 we are told that **God created man in His own image. In the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.** We have to realize *who* we are even before we can show others *what* we are. We are created differently and above all other creations. We were made special. We were made unique from all other creation, and even unique from each other. God took His time with us, breathing into us His breath of life because He loved us more than all the others He had created.

Furthermore, we are told in Genesis 2:15-17 that God gave us the task to cultivate the earth. The challenge for fathers is: do not become the thermometer of the family but rather become the thermostat by which we can control or influence our family into becoming followers of Jesus. This is God's given task to you, fathers. To nourish and care for your family. Together with this task was a warning to be wary of the traps that the devil has set out for us. Fathers you are responsible for your families, they look up to you and they depend on you. Let us take the responsibility seriously and the warning to heart.

### WHOSE AM I (To Whom do I belong)

John 8:42-44 Jesus tells us that of **If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God.** He further tells us **Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word.** If we are truly children of God, followers of Jesus then as such we should listen and obey what we are being taught in the Bible. So why then do we not obey God's commands? Verse 44 explains **You are of your father the devil and you want to do the desires of your father.**

Why then do we end up doing the desires of the devil? When sin entered the world, the curse of sin was placed upon us and then because of all these this world is placed under the dominion of the devil. So when we follow the desires of the flesh, when we conform to the world then we are following the desires of the devil.

But all is not lost because Colossians 1:13-14 says ***For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*** It is God's desire that we establish a relationship with Him. John 1:12 says ***as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.*** It is to those who receive and believe in Jesus Christ, we are given the privilege to be called children of God. So that even if at the onset, we were of the domain of the devil we have been called to receive this grace. So that through Jesus Christ, who bore the penalty of our sins on the cross, we have the privilege and the gift to become children of God.

#### WHAT AM I HERE FOR

After knowing who we are and who we belong to, the next logical question is: What am I here for? Psalm 139:14 says ***I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well.*** We were created to thank God, to praise Him, to worship Him, and to glorify God. Not just with our words but with our life.

Jesus Himself, teaches us how to converse with the Father in Matthew 6:9-13 ***Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours in the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen***

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How is your relationship with your father? How is your relationship with God the Father?
2. Have you forgiven in the same way that you have been forgiven? Is there still unforgiveness or bitterness in your life?
3. Do you know who you are in God's eyes? Do you know to whom do you belong?
4. How are you praying? What do you pray for? Is thanking God and giving glory to God your number 1 priority in life?