



THE  
*Father*  
YOU  
NEVER  
*Knew*

AUGUST 19/20

*His Kindness*

JOHN FULLER, SENIOR PASTOR

## *Introduction*

This week Pastor John begins a three-week series entitled *The Father You Never Knew*. This week's sermon focuses on God's kindness toward us, something we may not be able to see because of our view of our earthly dad.

## *Discussion*

1. Provide a few minutes of silence so your group can recall the kind of dad they each had, and have them write a sentence or two summarizing their relationship. Ask if anyone would like to share about their relationship.
2. How has your relationship with your dad affected your relationship with Heavenly Father?
3. **Read 2 Samuel 9:1-4.** Take a few moments to have someone review the backgrounds of King Saul, David and Jonathan. Now discuss the terrible situation Mephibosheth was facing. Could he have ever imagined the kindness King David was about to bestow on him? How does this story mirror the kindness God wants to bestow on you?
4. **Read Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6.** What does the term "Abba Father" mean, and can you truly call God your Abba Father? Review any obstacles that were discussed in question #2 and take time to pray for one another.

## *Think About It*

When we turn our lives over to Christ, we sometimes find it difficult to relate to our Heavenly Father. We may pray to Him, but because of the relationship we have with our dads, we might find it difficult to trust God the Father if we fear our dads. While we may regard Jesus as a personal friend, we might have a guarded relationship with God the Father. We need to be honest and tell God the Father we know our vision is tainted and ask Him to help us have a proper vision of Him. As time passes, God the Father will help us see Him as a loving and kind Father, and maybe our view of our earthly dad will change.

## *Do Something*

1. Take time to evaluate your relationship with God the Father this week. Is your view of Him tainted? Do you fear Him or feel He cares little for you? If so, ask Him to help you get a clearer vision of Him.
2. Has your view of God become clouded because of your relationship with your dad or mom? If so, ask God to fill in where your earthly parents have failed you.
3. If you've had a difficult relationship with your earthly dad or mom, consider forgiving and loving them for who they are, despite where they have failed you [even if they've passed away]. Acknowledge there is only one perfect Abba Father, and that is God the Father.