

ROCK SOLID: The God of the Psalms

"Father to the Fatherless" Psalm 103

June 19-20, 2021

This provides about one hour of focused reading and discussion following the points of Pastor Dick Foth's message. Feel free to use the portions you find most helpful.

1. Scripture is **saturated** with "**God, the Father.**"

- Read **Psalm 103:1-18**. There is a scriptural lens through which we see God's fatherhood, providing a better view than the one limited by earthly parents.
- **Genesis 1:2, Deuteronomy 10:17-18, Psalm 68:4-6, Psalm 103: 19-22, James 1:27, Revelation 22:1-5**. It seems that God has settled His plans from the beginning. What do these passages reveal about the nature of the Father?

2. "Father" **projects strength.**

- **Psalm 82:3-8, Isaiah 59:15-17, Jeremiah 31:12-14, Hebrews 12:5-11, Hebrews 5:7-8, and Matthew 3:16-17**. There seems to be a full spectrum on parenting. Some experience total rejection or inconsistent parenting. Others have great earthly parents. But always there is the perfect and unfailing ways of God the Father.
- Discuss how God the Father and earthly fathers share similarities and differences.
- What did you experience from your earthly parents? How has this impacted your view of God?
- If your history with parents is painful, have you experienced any redemption in light of God's example of parenting?

3. "Fatherless" carries a deep **sense of loss.**

- Read **Psalm 27:10**. How can we begin to address the wrongs done to us, especially by parents who failed us in significant ways?
- What does the process of forgiveness involve? How can we pick up the pieces and experience personal restoration in our lives - recognizing that we may never have a restored relationship with the one who hurt us?
- Read **Ephesians 1:4-6**; discuss the ideas in the passage.

4. No earthly **father compares** to our **Heavenly Father.**

- Read **Galatians 3:26-29, John 1:12-13, Mark 14:36, John 16:28, John 17:24-26**.
- Prayer: "Heavenly Father, I can't change one minute of my past or my earthly existence. But I can claim my birthright in You. I choose, from this moment on, to see you as my rightful father through Jesus Christ. I choose this day to follow Your ways. I choose this day to listen for Your voice of approval! Amen."

Close with **Romans 8:14-17** and the theme-related song, "**Good, Good Father.**"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfJrxvVnmkE>