

## Father God

God uses many words to describe himself, but one is stunningly personal – Father. This is thrilling... and problematic. You don't have another Jesus, or another Holy Spirit, but you do have another father, and your experience of him shapes the way you see God. Because of this, unknowingly, you may be "Father deficient," missing key resources God the Father is offering. In this seminar, we will draw from Scripture to evaluate four key areas of your heart and give practical steps for deep transformation through Father resources from God. Our goal is that you encounter this member of the Trinity in a new and deeply personal way and leave with insights that will change your life and help you stream the Father heart of God to others. This seminar is a live presentation of the material contained the book "Father God", which has been published in English, Czech, Slovak, Slovenian, and Romanian.

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### #1 God's Father Heart – his Love and Pleasure for you

"Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.'"

John 14:8

Why are Fathers so important?

What do you need from a Father?

Matt 3:17

Matt 17:5

These are four streams of God's Father heart

1. Identity
2. Love
3. Pleasure
4. Place

These are the most basic needs of your soul

If they are not filled you will be gasping for them like you would grasp for air if it were missing.

If you have them, you it will have stability and resources for every situation

What do these resources look like?

## Identity – John 5:17-19 (gives value)

Key question – who am I?

How does it affect you when you have Father Gifts?

- Healthy giving
- Healthy receiving

## Love - John 5:21 (gives security)

Key question – do you love me?

How does it affect you when you have Father Vacuums?

- Deadness
- Pulls

## Father Mapping

### 1. Identity – John 5:16–19

Who am I? Am I valuable? Do I have to be just like you to be significant? Am I competent? Capable?

Without identity from the Father you will be defined by the people and circumstances around you. This will be constantly changing and unstable. You will be very vulnerable to your environment and not have a clear sense of self.

	Not true at all		Very true		
Identity	1	2	3	4	5
I feel like a failure.					
I often compare myself to others.					
Sometimes I hate myself.					
I don't like my body.					
I'm not happy with the personality God gave me.					
I don't like the gifts and abilities God gave me.					
I don't feel that who I am has much worth or value.					
I am much more aware of my weaknesses than my strengths.					

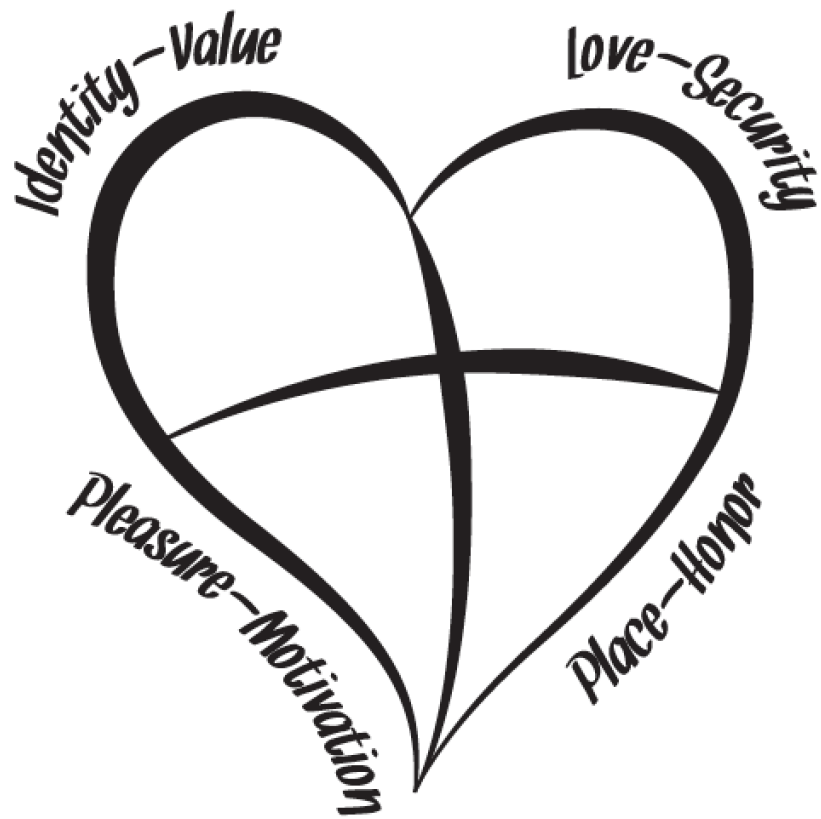
I often feel that if others found out who I really am they would reject me.					
I often find myself putting on masks so I can be acceptable and fit in with others around me.					
<b>Total</b>					

## 2. Love – John 5:20







Am I loved unconditionally? Am I precious and treasured to someone? Do I matter to anyone? Does someone care deeply about me? Do I feel and hear your love and affection?

Without love from the Father you will be constantly trying to gain love from those near you. Their love will never be enough, and you will be chronically disappointed. You may cope by turning off your emotions and becoming distant and cold.

	Not true at all		Very true		
<b>Love</b>	1	2	3	4	5
I am one of those people who doesn't need love.					
When people express love to me it never seems to be enough to really satisfy me.					
I have a basic mistrust of others and feel it is only a matter of time before they disappoint me.					
Others say they don't feel loved by me.					
I know in my mind that God loves me, but I don't feel it.					
It is hard for me to express love to others.					
I feel awkward, nervous, and vulnerable in situations where affection is given or expected.					
Others experience me as cold and emotionless.					
I rarely feel totally safe in relationships with others.					
I can be easily manipulated by someone who expresses love and affection toward me.					
<b>Total</b>					



## Symptoms

Inside	Outside
<p>Gifts</p> 	<p>Giving</p>  <p>Receiving</p> 
<p>Vacuums</p> 	<p>Deadness</p>  <p>Pulls</p> 

## **Discussion Questions:**

On your own:

1. Fill out the Father Mapping questions on Identity and Love. Where do you have Father resources? Where are they low or missing?
2. In the areas of Identity and Love, you have a combination of Father gifts and Father vacuums. Draw these two things in those two areas of the heart in the approximate size that you intuitively feel.

Together:

1. What was the most significant thought from this lesson for you personally?
2. Of the two areas of Identity and Love, which is stronger for you? Which is weaker? How do you think these two areas affect you today?
3. Father Vacuums produce deadness and pulls. Do you see those two things express themselves in any areas of your life? How does that impact you or those around you?

## **#2 - God's Father heart – his Identity and Place for you God is called Father only 15 times in the ENTIRE OLD TESTAMENT**

**But...**

23 times in John 14  
167 times in the Gospels  
40 times in the Pauline Epistles  
13 times in the book of 1 John

John 14:2-3 - The Father's house is your destination

John 14:6 – The “way” of Jesus leads to the Father

John 14:7 – If you really know Jesus you will know the Father

John 14:8 – Knowing the Father satisfies us

**John 14:9 – It is possible to spend a lot of time with Jesus and still not know the Father**

### **3. Pleasure - John 5:30, 41-44 (gives motivation)**

Key question - Are you proud of me, do you delight in me? Are you pleased with who I am, do I bring you joy?

How does it affect you when you have Father wounds?

- Self - protection
- Distortion

### **4. Place - John 5:21-27 (gives honor)**

Key question - Do I have purpose, does my life matter? Is there some place that is uniquely mine, do I fit?

### 3. Pleasure – John 5:30, 41–44

Are you proud of me? Do you delight in me? Are you pleased with who I am? Do you enjoy my presence? Do you like being with me? Do I bring you joy?

Without pleasure from the Father you will become addicted to pleasing people and vulnerable to hedonism. You may cope by avoiding all possibility of failure or rejection.

Not true at all

Very true

Pleasure	1	2	3	4	5
I'm constantly looking for approval from those around me.					
If someone is disappointed in me I feel devastated.					
I have a hard time taking risks because I am afraid of failure.					
I often replay the past and regret the things I didn't do well.					
I am constantly preparing myself for others to be disappointed in me—even when they are not.					
I often feel discouraged and unmotivated.					
Sometimes I feel I can't do anything right.					
I am often thinking of what can make me feel better and am drawn to whatever will boost my emotions—even if it is not good for me (food, alcohol, pornography, unhealthy relationships, medication).					
I feel passionless, without excitement, dead to joy and healthy pleasure.					
I rarely feel that God is pleased with me or that he delights in me.					
<b>Total</b>					

### 4. Place – John 5:21–27

Do I have purpose? Does my life matter? Is there some place that is uniquely mine? Do I fit? Do I belong? Am I a part of something bigger than myself? Do I have something to give? Would you notice if I were gone?

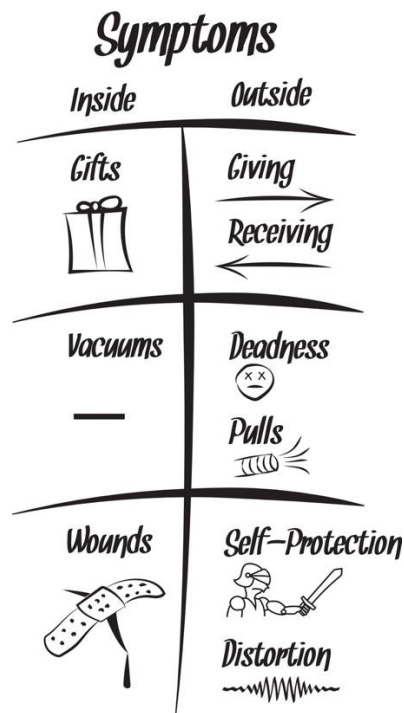
Without place from the Father you will be constantly fighting to make a place for yourself. You will fear that your life has no significance and be easily threatened by others. You may cope by scaling back your expectations, making a place that is small but defensible—like when people curl up in a ball, hide behind something, or retreat to a corner.

Not true at all

Very true

Place	1	2	3	4	5
I feel threatened when I am around someone who is secure and successful.					
I don't feel confident in my role at home.					
I don't feel fulfilled in my place at school or work.					
I am looking for direction and purpose in life—and haven't been able to find it.					
When someone criticizes me I overreact and feel they are trying to take something from me.					
I sometimes use power plays of anger, aggression, or demand to defend my place.					
I feel a constant need to prove myself.					
I often feel insecure and shrink back from my God-given responsibilities.					

I feel restless and easily distracted by "greener grass" somewhere different from where I am.					
It is hard for me to feel satisfied with my lot in life.					
<b>Total</b>					



### Discussion Questions:

On your own:

1. Fill out the Father Mapping questions on Pleasure and Place. Where do you have Father resources? Where are they low or missing?
2. In the areas of Pleasure and Place you have a combination of Father gifts, Father Wounds and Father vacuums. Draw these three things in those two areas of the heart in the approximate size that you intuitively feel.
3. Now go back and draw Father wounds in the areas of Identity and Love in the approximate size that you intuitively feel.

Together:

1. What was the most significant thought from this lesson for you personally?
2. Of the two areas of Pleasure and Place, which is stronger for you? Which is weaker? How do you think these two areas affect you today?
3. Father Wounds produce self protection and distortion. Do you see those two things express themselves in any areas of your life? How does that impact you or those around you?

### #3 Unblocking your heart to receive – five heart diseases

Review –

Four streams (and what they bring)  
 Four symptoms



So, God the Father has what you need. Just receive it!

Awareness → Restoration

There is a problem – when there is a vacuum or a wound, it gets filled up with other things

### **Five heart diseases – US LIV**

1. Unforgiveness
2. Sin
3. Lies
4. Idolatry
5. Vows

Awareness → Restoration will not work

You need...

Awareness → Cleansing → Restoration (ACR)

Three keys to cleansing:

1. The Counselor – John 14:16
  - a. Teach and remind – John 14:26
  - b. Convict – John 16:8
  - c. Guide and reveal – John 16:13-15
2. Repentance and faith – Mark 1:15
3. Jesus – John 14:6
  - a. Way
  - b. Truth
  - c. Life

### **Five heart diseases – US LIV**

1. Unforgiveness — Matt 18:23-35
2. Sin – I John 1:5-10
3. Lies – John 8:44-45
4. Idolatry – Isaiah 46
5. Vows – Isaiah 30

### **Application:**

1. Of the four gifts of Identity, Love, Pleasure and Place, choose one area of your heart that you would like to strengthen.
2. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to bring any memories to mind that relate to the vacuums or wounds that you have in this area of your heart.
3. Share these memories with your prayer partner and be open about the emotions that you feel.
4. Now ask the Holy Spirit to show you if there are any of the five heart diseases in this area – Unforgiveness, Sin, Lies, Idolatry, or Vows.
5. Together with your prayer partner, cleanse this disease with repentance and faith. Then, ask if there is anything other of the five diseases that the Holy Spirit wants to show you. If he does, proceed with cleansing that as well. The other person can also share what the Spirit is revealing to them as you pray.
6. End by praying that God would pour his Father gifts into the area that has been cleansed and prepared for him to fill.

### **#4 Restoration – re-fathered by God**

How does the Father restore?

Jesus won't leave you as orphans – John 14:18

Because Jesus lives, you will live – John 14:19

Jesus is in the Father, you are in Jesus, and Jesus is in you – John 14:20

The Father and Jesus will make their home with you – John 14:23

What does this mean? – Eph 2:4-10

You are...

Seated with Christ  
By Grace

You are...

His workmanship  
Created for good works – which he has prepared

## **1. Identity**

Ephesians 1:3-14

You are..

Blessed – God’s favor is on you (all of it)

Chosen

Holy

Predestined

Adopted

Redeemed

Forgiven

Included

Sealed – we belong to him

Guaranteed an inheritance

Over 200 things in the New Testament – “you are”

(not “you do”)

## **2. Love**

Eph 3:14-21

It is hard to comprehend God’s love

Not like some of the Loves that we know

Not romantic love – primarily an emotion

Not phileo love – love that is a response to loveliness

I am attracted to what is pleasant and beneficial to me

What happens when you love someone – describe it

What happens when someone loves you – describe it

His love is wider, deeper, longer, higher than that

Like the difference between a florescent light and the sun

Romans 8:31-39

## **3. Pleasure**

Eph 1:9

Zephaniah 3:17

#### **4. Place**

Father prayers – Eph 1:15-20

What is place?

Eph 2:6

Four kinds of place

Relational place – Throne (Eph 2:6, 139:7-10, 17)

Situational place – God’s Workmanship + Good Works (Eph 2:10, Psalm 139:13-15)

Directional place – Book – (139:16)

Destinational place – House (139:24, John 14:2)

#### **What should you do to experience restoration?**

Pray the Father Prayers (Eph 1, Eph 3)

Believe and receive

Psalm 139:23-24

Eph 5:15-17

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

#### **Application:**

1. Return to the Father gift that you focused on during the last session on cleansing. Review what God says in Scripture about how he wants to fill that area of your heart. Discuss what that means for you practically.
2. Now, pray for God to make those truths a reality in your life. Have someone else pray one or both of the Father prayers in Ephesians 1 and 3 for you.
3. When one of you has finished this, continue on to the next person.