

# Lesson 3: God the Father

## Aims for each learner:

- To rejoice to speak to God as Father.
- To explain at a basic level why Christ's followers call Jesus the Son of God.
- Memorize 1 John 3:1.
- To grasp God the Father's unconditional love and try to model this love towards children.

## Cultural clues:

- Calling God 'Father'
- Nearness to God

## Prepare:

'Father's love letter' video clip or song during the conclusion.

## Opening

**Pray for today's lesson. Review last week's practical task:** Did you fight against three bad habits from your old nature? How was this for you? Was it a struggle? Did you make progress?

## Lesson 3 home study review:

**Question 1:** a) Father; b) Father

**Question 2:** a) True; b) True; c) True

**Question 3:** Great love, the Father has lavished upon us, children of God, is what we are.

**Introduce today's topic:** Muslims think that to pray to God as Father is blasphemy or *shirk!* (see 'Cultural clues'). But in a spiritual way this is possible. As Christ's followers, it is our great privilege.

## Discussion

### Jesus called God 'Father' (Questions 3-9)

**Question 4:** Read the passage in the box.

- How many times did you circle 'Son' and 'Father'?
- Why do our Muslim friends object to the titles Son and Father?

- It should be Son 4 times, Father 4 times.*
- They think Christians teach that God had physical relations with a woman to produce a son. But this thought is offensive for Christians too.*

**Question 6:** We saw how the Old Testament used 'son' for some special people who lived close to God, showed some of his qualities, or ruled with his authority.

- In this passage which phrases speak of Jesus Christ being close to God his Father?
- Which phrases speak of Jesus Christ sharing the qualities of God his Father?
- Which phrases speak of Jesus Christ ruling with the authority of God his Father?

- 'The Father loves the Son and shows him all he does'.*
- 'Whatever the Father does the Son also does'. 'For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself'.*
- 'Whoever does not honour the Son does not honour the Father, who sent him'. 'And he has given him authority to judge'.*

**Question 7:** Read the first paragraph.

- Can you think of any examples from your culture when you call someone a 'son' but it does not actually mean a physical son?

**Question 8:** Read the first paragraph.

- What claim did Jesus Christ make which shows that he shares God's very nature? *'Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father'.*

Read the rest of question 8. *Divide into pairs. One person should take the role of Christ's follower. Take three minutes to explain briefly to the other person, as if to a non-Christian, why we use the title 'Son of God' for Jesus Christ. Now swap around, so that the second person now explains the same thing to the first person.*

## We too may call God Father (Questions 10-18)

**Question 11:** Read 1 John 3:1 and then the first paragraph of question 11.

- We can call Jesus Christ the Son of God. Discuss the bigger step we take when we call God our Father, through Christ.
- Why can we speak to God as our Father in a spiritual way?

*Because God has adopted us as his spiritual children, through Jesus our 'older brother'.*

**Discover the memory verse 1 John 3:1 in a practical way.**



- Write each word on a different piece of paper and mix them up.
- Ask the learner(s) to arrange them in the right order and recite the verse.
- Then remove 2 or 3 pieces of paper and recite the verse again.
- Continue this until the learner(s) can say the whole verse without any piece of paper.

**Question 12:** Read the whole question.

- What is one difference between our human father's love and our heavenly Father's love?
- Does God love us always, or only when we are good?
- Should we love our children always, or only when they are good?

*Our human fathers might love us according to our achievements, but our heavenly Father loves us however we are.  
Always.  
Always.*

**Question 13a:** No one has a perfect relationship with their earthly father.

- Do you want to say what your earthly father was like when you were growing up?

*Encourage people to share, but be sensitive that some may have unpleasant memories and may not want to share, or to dishonour their fathers.*

**Question 13b:** Read the second and third paragraphs of question 13.

- Do we ever fear that God would be like that father who let his son crash to the ground?

*Let the learner(s) describe their fears honestly. Then assure them that God will never let us down! He has promised 'Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you' (Hebrews 13:5).*

**Question 14-15:** Read the box in question 15 (Luke 15:20-24)



- What is very surprising about the father in Jesus' story?
- What do you think Jesus Christ is teaching us about God in this story?

*He welcomed back his son who had brought him so much dishonour.*

*God is like the generous father. He welcomes us back and forgives us even when we have brought him so much dishonour!*

**Question 16:** Read Nazir's story in the box.

- Have any of us faced an experience like Nazir?
- What is the difference between Nazir's father and our heavenly Father?

*They may not yet have been rejected, but maybe it will happen later when family find out about their faith in Christ.*

*Our heavenly Father will never reject us!*

**Question 18:** Read the entire question. Repeat together this verse from the *Zabur* (Psalms).  
**'Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.'**

## Conclusion

**Obeying today's teaching:** What difference will today's lesson make in your life? **Read together the practical task.**

- Do you have a friend you could do this task with?
- Keep going with the home study!

**Watch:** 'The Fathers love letter' which can be found on youtube in various languages.

**Or Sing:** A song about the Father's love.

**Pray together:** Thank God that we can rely on him more than any human father and that he always welcomes us even when our parents reject us.