

**“GOD DIDN’T SAY THAT”**  
**BIBLE APPLICATION PART 1**  
**THE JOURNEY FROM GOD AS FOE TO GOD AS FATHER**

1. Ice Breakers
  - We learned that God is always excited to see us and always welcomes us as VIP’s. Can you give an example where you felt you were welcomed with warmth beyond what you expected and one in which you felt you were seen as second class?
  - We are talking about God’s desire to really bond with us. Who was the “center of warmth” in your life as a child? What were things they did that helped you bond with them?
2. In Matthew 3:16-17, we read of something very special that happened to Jesus after His baptism. How is that a picture of bonding that God wants to happen between all of us and our Heavenly Father? Even though Jesus already knew what the Father told Him, why do you think it was important that Father spoke this? How did this benefit Him in what He would face? Can you think of an experience where you went from just knowing about God as your Heavenly Father to really knowing Him as Father?
3. In the message we learned that our perception of God is at the core of whether we know God as foe, stranger, acquaintance, friend, or Father. What are lies or misperceptions that you have believed about God in the past that hindered you from knowing Him as your intimate father.
  - a. I don’t know enough to deserve His love
  - b. I messed up too bad for Him to love me
  - c. My earthly parents/role models disappointed me, so God will probably do the same
  - d. I need to clean up my act first and then God will love me.
  - e. I called out to God and expected Him to do something in the past and He didn’t so I don’t trust Him
  - f. I haven’t felt God around me so he must not care for me.
  - g. Other
4. Jesus is the portrait of the Father we can look at to get a true picture of how He sees us and feels about us. What is an example of a way Jesus treated people that really reminds you of how God feels about you? (Examples: John 8:1-11, Mark 10:13-14, Romans 5:8, Lk 15:11-32)
5. One of the important things God uses to help us get a picture of Father’s love for us is the love of our brothers and sisters in Christ. What is an example of how Christians have shown you love that helped you know God loves you? How could we demonstrate Christ’s love to each other more in our group? (I John 4:12-17)
6. The Holy Spirit was intentionally given and is at work in our lives to empower us to know, realize, and experience the Father’s affections, thoughts, and value towards us. He is the Spirit of adoption with us to help us bond to the Father’s affirmation and love in every situation. Where is an area of our life where perhaps a hurt or a lie has blocked or hindered us from experiencing the Father’s acceptance? How could we ask the Holy Spirit to remove that label and show us the Father’s heart in that area? (Psalms 27:10, Romans 8:15-17)

## PRAYER OF ACCEPTANCE OF FATHER'S ADOPTING LOVE

Dear Heavenly Father,

I choose to fully accept your love into my life and the identity that you have given me through Jesus as a Son/Daughter. I invite you to be the ultimate Father and choose to accept my full adoption in You. I intentionally forgive those who misrepresented you to me and made it hard for me to think of You as One, who would really love me perfectly and never let me down. I forgive myself for the things you've already forgiven me for but have made it hard for me to accept Your love. I right now nail to the cross the lie that says that I can't or don't deserve to be embraced as a favored son/daughter because \_\_\_\_\_ . I will no longer accept the lie that I am unworthy. I reject that old identity and claim my new identity. I am your beloved \_\_\_\_\_ in whom you are well pleased. Come Holy Spirit, touch me, show me, teach me, and take me on this journey to a full realization of how adored I am by my Heavenly Father. AMEN