

Coming Home - Just Like Dad

“Every son and daughter has to consciously choose to step beyond their childhood and become father and mother for others.” - **Henri Nouwen**

Hebrews 5:12; Luke 6:36; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7; Matthew 5:48

1. Care about others like the Father has cared for me, and grieve for those who are away from Him. *Genesis 6:5-6; John 3:16*

2. Forgive others like the Father has forgiven me so they can have a taste of His forgiveness. *Matthew 6:14-15*

3. Accept others like the Father has accepted me so they can experience His acceptance. *Romans 15:5-7*

4. Be generous to others as the Father has been generous to me so they can experience His goodness. *Psalms 112:4-7; Ephesians 2:4-7*

5. Reconcile others as the Father has reconciled me so they can know there is a Heavenly Father who wants them home.

2 Corinthians 5:11; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21

“There is a dreadful emptiness in spiritual fathering, since you are not doing it for yourself. No power, success, popularity, no easy satisfaction. But this sacred emptiness is filled another way- by the joy of the returning sons and daughters. Our joy becomes not filling ourselves or living for ourselves, but it becomes living for the restoration of others.” - **Henri Nouwen.**

Next week’s reading guide: Working with the Father

Matthew 5:3-12

Matthew 6:1-4

Matthew 6:5-6

Matthew 10:34-42

Matthew 24:37-51

Luke 6:20-36

Luke 14:7-14

Discussion Questions:

1. What grieves you most about the state of our world, and how much do you care about those who are far from God. Discuss.
2. Is there anyone in your life you need to forgive? Who and why? Discuss.
3. Of the 5 ways listed to be “just like dad”, which one comes easiest for you? Which one do you have to work at more?
4. Will you commit to being “just like dad” and work at becoming a reconciler- helping the lost find their way to the Father? How will you live out this commitment?