



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: Our Heavenly Father

Date: November 2, 2025

Scripture Text: John 14:7-14

Notes:

Many times, our view of God is based on the relationship we had with our fathers. If our father was strict, we may view God as strict. If our father was absent, we may feel God is far away. If our father was loving, it may be easier to perceive God's love. In today's passage, we find Jesus with His disciples the night before His crucifixion. He has been celebrating the Passover with them. He is asked by one of His disciples, Philip, if he could see God the Father. Jesus makes the point that if you have seen Him, you have seen the Father. The more we learn about Jesus in the Bible, the more we learn about God. We must base our perception of God on how He is described in the Bible. After all, the Bible is His word, which He specifically gave us so that we can know Him better.

I. The Revelation of Our Father (John 14:7-11)

Jesus states: "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also". When Jesus mentions to 'know' Him is not to know about Him, i.e. head knowledge, but to know Him intimately. To have a personal relationship with Him. Out of that relationship grows a spiritual maturity that grows our faith and increases our ministry for Him.

- What are examples of things we may know *about* Jesus.
- Based on Jesus' response to Philip in [vs. 9](#), does it appear Jesus expected Philip to know He and the Father were One?
- Does He have that same expectation of us today?
- How does knowing Jesus better help us know God the Father better?
- What are ways we can increase our intimacy with Jesus?
- Jesus tells Philip to believe that He and the Father are One, if not because of His words, then also by His works.
 - What are examples of Jesus' works that demonstrate He and the Father are One?
 - What are examples of the works of God in your life? How do these works help you *know* Him better?



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II. The Manifestation of Our Father (John 14:12)

Jesus continues to explain that those who believed in Him would go on to do greater works than He. So, what does it mean to do greater works than Jesus? D.A. Carson describes it as “the disciples’ works were greater than His because they had the privilege of testifying by word and deed to the finished work of Christ, and to the fuller coming of the kingdom that it ushered in, whereas Jesus’ ministry prior to his death and resurrection only foreshadowed these things.”

- What are examples of the works the Apostles did after Jesus’ ascension to heaven?
- What was the scope of Jesus’ earthly ministry? How did the Apostles ministry expand the work of Jesus?
- How can our ministry expand on the work of the Apostles?
- What is needed for our work to continue to spread what Jesus did?
- How well would you say you are spreading the works of Jesus?

III. The Obligation of Our Father (John 14:13-14)

These verses describe one of the great prayer promises of the Bible that focuses first on the purpose of prayer. Jesus answers prayer to bring glory to the Father. Our praying, therefore, ought to be directed toward that end. Although Jesus states He will do what we ask, scripture must be taken as a whole. Is God glorified by what we are asking for? Are we asking with selfish motives? As we pray, we must seek God’s will over our own.

- Jesus states, “Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do”. What does it mean to ask for something in Jesus’ name?
- The phrase ‘in Jesus’ name’ is not a magical quote such as ‘hocus pocus’, but can be seen as asking *for Jesus’ sake*, or *in Jesus’ authority*. How can remembering that affect how we pray?
- The culture in which these words were spoken took names very seriously, so much so that they equated one’s name with the character, spirit, and power of that person. How often are you considering the character and person of Jesus in what you pray for?
- In [James 4:3](#) we are told that if we don’t receive what we ask in prayer it’s because we ask with wrong motives. What are examples of wrong motives in what we pray for?
- What are ways we can align our motives with God’s will?