

Near

When Longing

December 15-16, 2018

I will be a Father to you and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord.

2 Corinthians 6:18

Big idea The gift of the Father's love is ours to open.

Scripture Luke 2:41-52 Psalm 103: 13 Psalm 42: 8 Ephesians 3: 19

Discussion Questions

1 – What is a memory you have from going to a festival or theme park?

2 - Read Luke 2:41-52. Try to picture a twelve-year-old Jewish boy staying behind in the temple instead of going "home" with his (earthly) family. Why does Jesus say he stayed behind in the temple? (He wanted to be NEAR his Father.)

3 – Traditionally Santa "sees you when you're sleeping," which sounds somewhat creepy! However, what does Psalm 42: 8 say our Father God does? What do you think of God watching you at night?

4- Psalm 103: 13 says the LORD is "a tender and compassionate" Father? Does this ring true in your opinion?

5 – Do you think you need your Father God? He gives us His best gift in the life, death, and resurrection of his dear Son Jesus Christ. How have you accepted His gift of salvation, exchanging self-oriented living for closeness with Him?

Next Steps Your Father God dreams that you will thrive, grow "in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and man," as Jesus did (Luke 2:52) enjoying an abundant life (John 10:10 ;) Imagine aloud, or on paper quietly, what this might look like in your life.

Prayer Focus Pray that this Advent season that you will grow in understanding of your Father God's mighty love. Thank Him that He gives you both the good gift of Jesus and the gift of Himself, a father who won't disappoint, who knows how to balance love and justice, who is relational and present, who made the astounding choice to send His only child to earth in sacrifice for human sin in order that He might be close to us, to you.

Pray that God will show you how to grow in wisdom and in favor with God and man.

