



The Father Heart of God

1. Catch Up On Life:

This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8 t, Romans 12:10 and 15)

- Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?
- What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

2. Review the Mission:

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

People:

- Reactive - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
- Proactive - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, STC partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Columbia)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?

Plan:

- Are there any rhythms already planned, or an extra rhythm we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?

Pray: Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

3. Sermon Discussion:

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, to equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a LifeGroup throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25)

Read **Romans 8:12-17** and recap the sermon.

What stood out to you overall from the sermon, and why?

Describe your relationship with your father. What are ways you have potentially projected the imperfections or failures of your father onto God?

In the sermon we said that some of the things God does for us as Father are that He:

- Created you.
- Loves you.
- Likes you.
- Provides for you.
- Forgives you.
- Adopts you.
- Comforts you.
- Protects you.
- Disciplines you.

Which of these realities are good news for you right now, and why?

Pray and ask God to help you see him accurately as your heavenly Father.

Pray for Him to heal any false pictures or associations you may knowingly or unknowingly have about Him.

4. Engage the Heart:

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

- What are you struggling to trust God with this week? How can you give God control of it?

- Has the Holy Spirit been prompting you to do anything that you've been resisting? What steps do you need to take to obey?

Pray: James tells us that a community that regularly confesses sin and prays for each other will see a lot of healing. Confess your sins in prayer and pray for each other.