

What is it you need most in a father?

Look in these verses to answer each of these questions:

*How do we know God will be faithful to us? Isaiah 63:16*

*What is our identity in God's family? 1 John 3:1*

*Who will meet our needs? Matthew 6:9-11*

*Can we expect good things in our lives? James 1:17*

*Will we be left alone and without family? Psalm 68:5*

*Where can we turn when we are hurting and in need of comfort?  
2 Thessalonians 2:16*

## WRAP-UP

We live in a temporary, disposable world. But Isaiah tells us that the Messiah, the son who was given to us, revealed that we have an everlasting father. In this we find that God gives us an identity as His children; that He will always be faithful to us; He provides for our every need; and gives us comfort and hope. Whatever experience we've had with our earthly fathers is eclipsed by the relationship God offers us with our loving Heavenly Father, and all we have to do to see this is to look at Jesus.

## Memory Verse

*Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.  
- James 1:17 NLT*

## PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for your group members' needs: (see back for more space)

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*Challenge- In his epistles Paul often referred to "our father". See how many of these you can find and what Paul said in those verses.*

## "Everlasting Father"

*Watching and Waiting - Week #3*

## INTRODUCTION

As we unwrap Isaiah's announcement of the coming Messiah, the tremendous gift God gave us through Jesus is revealed. In addition to his being our source of wonderful counsel, and our Mighty God, we find that we have an everlasting father. So, what did Isaiah mean when he said "...a son is given to us... and He will be called...Everlasting Father."? There is no simple answer to this question, but let's consider why it is important that this is part of His name.

## Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

What would you list as your father's best quality?

## STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

### 1. What's in a name?

*Isaiah 9:6 NLT - 6 For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*

Isiah included four things that the Messiah would be named. The names were more than titles, they revealed His character. We previously studied the first two names; Wonderful Counselor and Mighty God. Both of these describe the character of Jesus. So why is He called Everlasting Father? This certainly is a reference to the eternal nature of God, and therefore of Jesus. John 1 gives us a glimpse into Jesus' eternal nature.

*What was His role in creation (v.3)?*

*John 1:1-3;14RSV - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God; 3 all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ...  
14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

The word for father used in Isaiah 9:6 ('ab) can be used in a literal sense but also in a broader sense, as in the author or founder of something – like “the father of our country”. So, if all things were made through him, then Jesus is the founder or father of all things.

*More directly, what do the verses below tell us about how we can see the Father?*

*John 14:9 NLT - 9 Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?"*

*John 10:30 NLT - 30 The Father and I are one."*

## **2. Built to Last**

It seems everything surrounding us has built-in obsolescence.

*Which is last you had to replace; your car, computer or cell phone?*

So, this title of “everlasting” is in stark contrast to what we normally experience.

*Hebrews 13:8 NLT - 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

Hebrews 13:8 confirms the reliable, enduring nature of Jesus. And this quality is directly applied to His fatherhood in Isaiah 9:6.

*If you have lost a father, or grandfather, what are some of the things that you miss most about that relationship?*

God has assured us that the relationship we have with our heavenly father is going to last through eternity.

## **3. Our Heavenly Father**

God fulfills the role of our father in many different aspects. Below is a sampling of how Our Father cares for us.

*Psalm 68:5 NLT - 5 Father to the fatherless, defender of widows--this is God, whose dwelling is holy*

*Isaiah 63:16 NLT - 16 Surely you are still our Father! Even if Abraham and Jacob would disown us, LORD, you would still be our Father. You are our Redeemer from ages past.*

*Matthew 6:9-11 NLT - 9 Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. 10 May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today the food we need,*

*2 Thessalonians 2:16 NLT - 16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal comfort and a wonderful hope,*

*James 1:17 NLT - 17 Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.*

*1 John 3:1 NLT - 1 See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him.*