

# "Daddy Knows Best"

## Discussion Guide: Inspired By Pastor Willie Joe Lightfoot Sr.

### Summary

In this Father's Day sermon titled "Daddy Knows Best," the pastor draws from Proverbs 3:5-6 to present God as the ultimate Father whose wisdom, love, and faithfulness surpass any earthly Father. The message acknowledges that Father's Day can bring a complicated mix of emotions for many people, depending on their experiences with their own fathers, but points to a heavenly Father who never fails. The sermon walks through six key characteristics of God as Father: He knows us completely and loves us still, He provides for our every need, He disciplines us in love for our growth, He never leaves or forsakes us, He celebrates our return like the Father of the prodigal son, and He gives clear instructions to earthly fathers on how to lead their families. The pastor closes with a call for earthly fathers to speak life, lead in worship, train intentionally, and be present, all while pointing to the greatest act of fatherly love: God sending His Son Jesus Christ for our redemption.

### Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with grateful hearts, acknowledging that You are the perfect Father. As we open Your Word and gather in discussion, we ask that You quiet our own thoughts and assumptions. Open our hearts and minds to what You specifically want each of us to receive today. Where there is pain connected to fatherhood, bring healing. Where there is doubt about Your love, bring assurance. Lead this conversation, Holy Spirit, and let every word spoken draw us closer to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

### Ice Breaker

What is one of your favorite memories involving a Father figure in your life, whether it was your dad, a grandfather, an uncle, a coach, or another mentor?

### Key Verses

- **Proverbs 3:5-6**
- **Jeremiah 1:5**
- **Psalms 139:1-2**
- **Matthew 6:25**
- **Philippians 4:19**
- **Hebrews 13:5**
- **Luke 15:11-32**
- **Ephesians 6:4**
- **John 3:16**

### Questions

- The pastor opened by saying that Father's Day can bring joy, grief, or a complicated mix of both. How has your personal experience with your earthly Father shaped the way you initially think about or relate to God as Father?
- Psalm 139 tells us that God knows our every thought and is acquainted with all our ways, yet He still loves us completely. How does it make you feel to know that God is fully aware of everything about you and chooses to love you anyway?
- The sermon emphasized that God provides not just material things but also peace, purpose, wisdom, and identity. Which of these provisions feels most meaningful or most needed in your life right now, and why?
- Hebrews 12 teaches that God disciplines those He loves as proof of belonging, not rejection. Can you think of a season in your life where what felt like hardship or correction was actually God working something good in you?
- The pastor spoke about the wound of fatherlessness and how it can affect a person's identity, trust, and even their relationship with God. How can the church do a better job of helping people heal from that wound and encounter God as a faithful Father?
- In the parable of the prodigal son, the Father ran to meet his son while He was still far off and celebrated His return rather than condemning Him. How does this picture of God challenge the way you think about your own return to Him after seasons of wandering, or the way you welcome others who are returning?
- The pastor gave four instructions for earthly fathers: speak life and identity, lead your house in worship, train intentionally, and be present. Which of these do you think is most lacking in families today, and what practical steps could someone take to grow in that area?
- The sermon concluded with the declaration that the greatest Father's gift was Jesus Christ, wrapped in flesh, hung on a cross, and raised on the third day. How does understanding God's sacrifice through that lens deepen your appreciation for what it means to be called a child of God?

### Life Application

This week, take intentional time to reflect on your relationship with God as your heavenly Father. If you have experienced wounds related to an earthly Father, bring those specifically to God in prayer and ask Him to begin a work of healing. If you are a parent or a mentor, choose one of the four instructions from the sermon (speak life, lead in worship, train intentionally, or be present) and put it into practice in a concrete way before the week is over. Write down one thing you are grateful for that God has provided, and share it with someone in your life as a testimony of His faithfulness.

### **Key Takeaways**

- God is a Father who knows you completely, including your private struggles and secret pain, and He loves you fully despite all of it.
- God provides not only material needs but also identity, purpose, peace, and wisdom. His provision is always according to His riches, not our circumstances.
- God's discipline is always redemptive and purposeful. It is proof that we belong to Him, and it is always aimed at making us whole rather than tearing us down.
- No matter how far someone has wandered, God the Father is watching the horizon and ready to celebrate their return, just as the Father celebrated the prodigal son, covering them with a robe, a ring, and a seat at the table.
- Earthly fathers are called to mirror the heavenly Father by speaking life and identity into their children, leading their homes in worship, training intentionally, and being consistently present rather than just a provider.

### **Ending Prayer**

Father God, we thank You for this time together and for the truth of Your Word that reminds us You are the perfect Father. We thank You that You know us, provide for us, correct us in love, and never leave our side. For anyone in this group who is still carrying the weight of a broken relationship with an earthly Father, we ask You to bring healing and wholeness right now in Jesus' name. For every parent and mentor represented here, equip them to reflect Your love and faithfulness to the children and people in their care. Help us all to trust You more deeply, knowing that Daddy truly does know best. We receive Your love, we walk in our identity as Your children, and we go from this place ready to live it out. In the mighty name of Jesus, amen.