

Yahweh the Father



Set Up:

Prepare your item(s) and plan to walk through this after dinner. This should take you and your family no more than 15 minutes. If possible we recommend that you print off this document so that you are free from technology. If you must have it on your device, turn on airplane mode or do not disturb to limit distractions

Item:

A print off or screen with *“the prodigal son”* photo on the second page.

Scripture:

Take turns reading:

Exodus 34:5-8 — Matthew 1:18-23 — Luke 15:11-16 — Luke 15:17-24 — Luke 15:25-32

God — Father — *Jesus — Human — Immanuel — God With Us*

Read:

Before the time of Jesus the people of God did know many things about God, like His *Power*, His *Holiness*, and His *Might*. They wouldn't even pronounce the name *“Yahweh”* because it was too holy to be spoken aloud. Us, like them, can also know God as a loving father, but we can sometimes fall into a trap of painting God with only one brush instead of holding in balance all of his character. For example:

If God was only holy, He would have simply demanded that we pull ourselves together in order to be good enough to have a relationship with him. This is something we know to be impossible on our own.

If God was only love, He would not have needed to come to earth either. He would have just overlooked sin and evil and embrace us.

Yahweh, the God of the Bible is infinitely holy, so our sin could not be shrugged off, it had to be dealt with. He is also infinitely loving. He knows we could never climb up to him, so he came down to us. God had to come Himself to do what we couldn't do. He doesn't send someone, some committee to report on humans or a preacher to tell you how to save yourself. He came Himself. Can you believe that? God came himself! No one even had a thought that He could become human.

God is fully holy, fully love, and fully father. There are a lot of fathers in Jesus' family line described in Matthew 1:1-17, and many in our own ancestry. A bunch of people all over the map. Some good ones and some bad ones. Like a good father, God goes out of His way to create the space we need to thrive both in this life and the life to come, by sending his son.

Wonder:

Look at the piece of art on the next page. This is *Rembrandt's* depiction of *The Prodigal Son*. Where God is the good the better father. What emotions do you see? What comes out of this picture? How have you experienced God as father?

Pray:

Take a moment to sit quietly listening to God, your fathers voice. Ask Him what is true about you.

