

The 3P's – PEOPLE – PLACE – POWER
Our Father in Heaven – Matthew 6:9

Introduction:

1. Have you ever been asked the question – *Who is God?*
2. This is what I said – “*God is an infinite, personal, eternal Spirit who created the universe by His own power. He is all-knowing, all-powerful, and present everywhere at all times. And he exists eternally as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*”
3. After the words “*God is*” everything else sounds like a recitation from a theology lecture
4. Bottom line – if you figure this out then you have a handle on life
5. Either God is or He is not and if He is it changes everything
6. Exploring God is quite an absurd notion
7. We His creation – mere people – exploring the creator of the universe is that possible?
8. He draws us to this journey and promises that the experience will change us as we discover remarkable truths about who he is.
9. We hear many a sermon about how to be a better Christian; how to pray better; how to share the Gospel more effectively; how to read the Bible enjoyably; how to be a better father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, pastor, elder... The list is endless.
10. Could it be because we have become such a self-indulgent society and it is all about us?
11. And so the one who has established eternity for relationship with him is largely unknown and unexplored by so many Christians.
12. But he's the answer to our problems and an investigation of who he is will provide more answers for our contemporary dilemmas
13. Perhaps the most amazing fact is that the focus of our consideration – God himself - takes us by the hand and opens Himself to our gaze,
14. In the steps of others who have traveled as reverent adventurers into the greatness of God, today we explore something of the mystery of the one who inhabits eternity because time is too small for him.
15. So today I hope to provide a stimulus to the intellect as well as the emotions with the aim of enabling you to increasingly realize the amazing nature of your God.
16. We are His children and He invites you to know Him better.
17. You will find that contemplating God will change you while reflecting on God will result in God being reflected through you.
18. 23&me – you can discover something about your roots

The Bible:

1. What kind of Father is God?
2. This is especially important to this issue of how God meets our deepest needs?
3. Lets just get our bearings and talk about the bible for a moment because that is where we will learn about God and who He is
4. The Bible was written over a span of 1500 years, by 40 writers.
5. Using the writers' own writing styles and personalities, God shows us who he is and what it's like to know him.
6. There is one central message consistently carried by all 40 writers of the Bible: God, who created us all, desires a relationship with us.
7. The Lord's prayer does not start with “our uncle in heaven”

8. When you say, "Our father **in heaven**," you are proclaiming that he has the authority and power to hear you and to help you when you pray.
9. God purposely designed human fatherhood to be an illustration of his relationship to us.
10. In the very beginning, God fashioned the family, and the role of the father in the family, to serve as a living picture of who He is - this is intentional
11. The New Testament refers to God as Father over 250 times
12. Our ability to receive blessings from Him depends on what kind of Father we think He is
13. Even the best fathers miss the mark
14. Many men have never grown up and don't take responsibility for anything
15. The view of God's fatherhood that many received from our own fathers was flawed and imperfect.

He Defends us:

1. Can you imagine a loving father watch their child been attacked and doing nothing?
2. God wont either – He is always on our side
3. Today it is not politically correct to speak of God as a warrior but He is committed to defending and protecting His people
4. God giving you and I victory against the spiritual forces which are arrayed against us.
5. Most people don't even understand they are in a battle
6. ***Eph 6:10-12" Be strong with the Lord's mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil. For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms."***
7. ***Eph 4:25-27" So put away all falsehood and tell your neighbor the truth because we belong to each other. And don't sin by letting anger gain control over you. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a mighty foothold to the Devil."***

Discipline:

1. There are times we will be disciplined
2. God disciplines everyone of His children
3. His motive is love – His practice is perfect – His purpose is our sanctification – His end is our glory – let us not despise His discipline

Devotion:

1. God's fatherhood is seen in his absolute devotion to us as his children.
2. There is nothing that will separate us from His love
3. Tragedy of children in foster care system
4. ***John 10:27-30 "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."***
5. But perhaps you also know what it's like to be rejected; to have a relationship severed; to be cast aside by someone you love.
6. Remember He is your Father and we are His children
7. **Action Step – 3x5 card – "Ask – Seek – Knock"**