

## Lesson 3B – Our True Identity – Known, Heard, Understood and Cared For

### The Importance of Being in Relationship

Father planned for us to *find life from being in relationship* with Him and others.

- In the beginning Father planned to have a family that He could walk and talk with and be in relationship with. The *importance and power of relationship were lost* when Adam and Eve chose to act independently of Father.
- We were **made to have a heart-to-heart relationship** with Father God and with others. Relationships develop from our hearts, not our heads.
- We are children of God and belong to His family, but most of us have not grown up *feeling like we belong to His family* or know how to have a relationship with Father.
- Father planned for you to be born into a family with a father and mother who knew His love and had a relationship with Him so that they could show you and tell you of His love.

Every person born into this world desires to feel *welcomed, connected and that he/she belongs!*

- Father God created us in His image and likeness, "male and female He created them." The feminine qualities that are found in women came from God too. Have you ever felt Father's tender, gentle, loving nature and desire to nurture your heart?
- Jesus came to reveal the Father. Jesus has a close intimate relationship with His Father. **John 1:18** tells us He came from the "bosom of the Father." The word *bosom* speaks of the breast, close to the heart, kindness, tender affections or an embrace.
- In these last days Father wants His children to know His warm, nurturing side to draw us close. It also lets us know we have a special place in His heart!
- **When you feel you have a place in someone's heart and belong there, then you are free to express and be yourself!**

### Storge Love and the Importance of Mothers

1. Every child needs *storge* love or family love from both a mother and father to develop into a healthy person.

- The Greek word *storge* speaks of *nurturing, empathy, compassion, gentleness, affection and tenderness*.
- As a mother carries the child in her womb she imparts security, warmth and trust to the child.
- *Mothers* are the place of welcome, connectedness and warmth. They are our first connection with love, bonding and relationship.
- During the first two years of a child's life, *storge* love awakens a child to the feminine heart of God in each of us. It **calls a child into nurture, acceptance, belonging, and life**. **Ps. 22:9** – We learn to trust at our mother's breasts.
- Her *storge* love imparts faith in the child to trust, to bond, and to receive and give love.

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### 2. *Storge* love is shown in three ways by mothers.

- **Affectionate touch** – Touching someone says that they are important to you, they belong, they are worth spending time with, and they have value! Doctors have proven that without regular doses of affectionate touching the body and emotions can become unhealthy.
- **Eye contact** – The eyes are the windows of the soul where love is communicated to a child. **Luke 11:34** Babies will look directly at your eyes and drink in the *storge* love that they need. If they don't see love and understanding but instead get "the look," they can be wounded and feel insecure and separated.
- **Tone of voice** – Babies learn to trust and bond when their parents look them in the eyes and speak loving words with an encouraging, gentle, tender voice. Loving tones to our words nurture the soul and bring health to the emotions. Our tone allows them to feel accepted and valued so they walk free of rejection and failure.

### 3. Our *Father has the nurturing heart of a mother* who desires to pour His love into our hearts anywhere that our earthly mothers did not have *storge* love to give us.

- **Ps. 27:10** tells us that when our father or mother forsake us, the LORD will take care of us. We have a Father who will give us the love that we need.
- **Ps. 131** paints the picture of a baby being well fed and content to rest in the mother's arms. Our Father wants us to be that way with Him, feeling content and secure in His love.

## Your True Identity – Known by Your Father

### 1. Your Father knows you inside and out. *He knows the details of your life* and cares for you!

- **Ps. 139: 1-3, 15-18** talks about Him knowing when you sit down or rise up; He knows your thoughts and understands your ways; Father's eyes see you in secret and Father is thinking about you all the time! (Read this in the Message and other versions.)
- **Jer. 1:5** says, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you." Father knows each of us!
- **Matt. 10:30, Luke 12:7** – These verses tell us the very hairs on our heads are numbered and we have more value than many sparrows.

### 2. Your Father *knows you personally* and what you are dealing with.

- **Isa. 66:18** – tells you that Father knows your works and thoughts.
- **Luke 6:8** – Jesus knew people's thoughts and tried to get them to see His heart of love.
- **Gal. 4:9** – lets us know that God knows us and wants us to know Him!
- **Ps. 31:7-8** – Father is aware of your troubles and knows your soul in adversities and He sets your feet in a wide place.

### 3. *Father gives you a heart to know Him as much as He knows you!*

- **Jer. 24:7** says He gives you a heart to know Him so you can return to Him and be His people and He your God.

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- **Jer. 31:34** He encourages you to *know Him* "for they all shall know Me from the least to the greatest. I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more."
- **Jer. 9:23-24** shows you what He wants us to glory in and get excited about "that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness..."

4. *Father knows more about you than you may even understand or know yourself.* Yet His love covers all your imperfections and He continues to think of ways to bless your life no matter what your response! You hold a special place in Father's heart, reserved just for you!

### Your Identity – Heard and Understood

1. **Father has a tender heart that hears us and understands how we feel.** Jesus' response to others as He walked the earth gives us the true picture of who our Father really is.

- Many times Jesus was moved with compassion, which lets us know He understood what people were going through. **Matt. 14:4; Mark 8:2**
- **Heb. 4:15** says we have a High Priest who is "*touched with the feelings of our infirmities.*"

2. Father heard and continues to hear the cries and groans of His people that are hurting.

- Hagar knew the Lord had heard her in her afflictions and she knew Him as You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees. **Gen. 16:11-13**
- God also heard Abraham's prayers for Ishmael, even though Abraham had not followed God's plan by trying to help God. **Gen. 17:20** Father can even bless our mistakes!
- **Ex. 2:24-25; Ex. 3:7-8; Ex. 6:5-7** all say that Father God heard the cries and groans of His people in bondage in Egypt. He determined to bring them out and He even promised, "I will take you as My people and I will be your God." His heart is for you and He hears you!
- Many people in the Bible knew and experienced the Lord hearing and answering their cries and prayers. Read **1 Kings 17:22; Dan. 10:12; Ps. 3:4; Ps. 6:8-9; Ps. 18:6; Ps. 34:4-6; Ps. 40:1-5; Ps. 116:1-2 & 9**

3. Jesus knew His Father always heard His prayers. As the Son of a loving, caring Father, Jesus always looked for ways to affirm Father's care and understanding of people.

- Jesus *touched the leper* as well as healing his leprosy. **Matt. 8:2-3** Jesus made *the man feel valued and loved* as well as having his health restored.
- When the woman was healed of an issue of blood, Jesus *looked at her and called her daughter...* **Mark 5:32-33** He *looked at her with love* and wanted her to know *she belonged to God's family.*
- When Jesus heard that the blind man that He had healed was kicked out of the temple, He sought him out. **John 9:35** Jesus shows His concern for how others treat us.
- In **John 11:41-42** Jesus spoke out loud so everyone would know that His Father had heard Him and always hears Him. He wanted everyone to know and believe how much Father understands our needs and what we are going through.

## Your Identity – Cared for & Comforted as His Child

1. Your Father is better than the best natural parent only wanting good for His children. He has all the qualities of a loving nurturing mother who wants her child to know his/her needs will be met and that everything is going to be alright!

- *“As a father loves and pities his children, so the Lord loves and pities those that fear Him – with reverence, worship and awe.” Ps. 103:13* Another version says Father has compassion on His children. His heart wants to draw you close and care for you.
- **Isa. 49:15-16** says that while a woman may forget her nursing child, *Father will not forget you and that He has inscribed you on the palms of His hands.* If He had a wallet, your picture would be in it! You are always on His mind!

2. Your Father cares for you gently and tenderly like a shepherd cares for his sheep. Jesus was the good shepherd who gave His life for the sheep. **John 10:11**

- He feeds us, gathers the lambs in His arms, carries them in His bosom and gently leads those with young. He makes sure each one gets what they need. **Isa. 40:11; Ps. 23**
- He is genuinely concerned about each one of His children. (Read **Isa. 42:3** in the Message Bible.) *“He won’t brush aside the bruised and the hurt and He won’t disregard the small and insignificant, but He’ll steadily and firmly set things right.”*
- You do not have to be afraid for He will be with you and help you. **Isa. 41:10**

3. Your Father is the ultimate caregiver! He knows how to take care of every detail of your life. Can you be a little child that Father takes care of? Will you look to Him and depend on Him rather than yourself?

- **Ps. 138:8** says the Lord will perfect that which concerns me. Trust Him to do it for you!
- **1 Peter 5:7** Amp. says, *“Casting the whole of your care – all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all – on Him; for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully.”*
  - Your part is to cast all your care – the Greek for care means **distractions**. You need to get your eyes off things and what self can do and look to your Father to do the work!
  - The second **cares** in the Greek means **to be of interest to, concern, it matters**. You are important to Him and He wants to be a good parent that makes sure His child has all his/her needs met.
- **Ps. 55:22** tells you to cast your burden on the Lord and He will sustain you. He does not want you weighted down by things.

4. Your Father is the Father of mercies and God of all comfort. **2 Cor. 1:3-4** Paul who faced many difficulties during his ministry tells us he went to his Father when he needed to be comforted. *Can you see Father as waiting and ready to comfort you too?*

- Even in the Old Testament Father reveals His heart of comfort. **Isa. 51:12; Isa. 52:9;**
- *He desires to comfort His children much like a mother comforts her child* when he/she falls down and skins his/her knee. **Isa. 66:12-13** After the mother cleans and bandages the knee, she then holds the child tight in her arms and says, *“Everything is going to be alright.”* By her words and actions, she **pulls the pain out of the child and pours in her love.** That is what Father wants to do for you every time you are hurt! **Ps. 147:3**