

# Devotional Guide

## June 22-27, 2026



# Who Is Your Father?

Speaker: Mike Kleven, Lead Pastor

### **Big Idea:**

*“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” (A.W. Tozer) The sermon challenges us to identify the lies we have believed about God—lies that distort His loving character—and replace them with the truth revealed in Jesus, who is the exact representation of the Father. This Father’s Day message invites us to come home to the true Father whose arms are open wide.*

### **Synopsis:**

*On Father’s Day we are reminded that the influence our earthly fathers had is not the most powerful father-influence in our lives today. There are two fathers competing for our hearts: the Father of love, truth, and life, and the father of hate, lies, and death. The serpent’s four lies in Eden still poison our picture of God. Jesus came to expose those lies and show us the Father. “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). If our mental picture of God does not match Jesus, it is polluted and harmful. This week we identify the lie, replace it with truth, and confide in a trusted friend so we can experience the abundant life Jesus came to give.*

# Day 1: The Most Important Thing About You

**Bible Reading:** John 8:31-32

The sermon opened with a powerful statement from A.W. Tozer: “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” It is not what we say or do on the surface, but what we deeply believe God to be like that shapes everything.

On Father’s Day we naturally think about our earthly fathers—their influence, their absence, their love or their disappointment. But the sermon reminds us that the most powerful father-influence in our lives is not our dad; it is one of two spiritual fathers competing for our hearts.

The Father of love, truth, and life wants to give us abundant life. The father of lies wants to steal, kill, and destroy. Which picture of “father” are we living under? The truth will set us free only when we let it replace the lies we have believed.

## **Reflection Questions:**

1. What word or feeling rises in you when you hear the word “father”? How does that connect to how you picture God?
2. Why do you think Tozer calls our internal picture of God “the most important thing about us”?
3. Which of the two fathers (love/truth/life or hate/lies/death) has had more influence on your daily choices lately?
4. How does the promise “the truth will set you free” encourage you today?

**Prayer Prompt:** Father, thank You that You are not distant or withholding. Reveal any lie I have believed about You. Let Your truth set me free today. Amen.

**Action Step:** Write the Tozer quote on a card or phone note. Read it aloud three times today and ask, “What am I believing about God right now?”

# Day 2: Four Lies of the Father of Lies

**Bible Reading:** Genesis 3:1-5

The sermon walked us through the four lies the serpent planted in Eve's (and Adam's) mind in the garden.

Lie #1: God cannot be trusted to tell the truth.

Lie #2: God is holding back what's best for you.

Lie #3: God is selfish and doesn't truly love you.

Lie #4: You know best what is good for you.

These lies did not just tempt them to eat fruit—they poisoned their picture of God. Once they believed God was stingy, controlling, and untrustworthy, they reached for the fruit on their own terms. The same lies still circulate today in our culture and in our own hearts. When we believe God is holding out on us, we stop trusting Him and start striving or hiding. The father of lies has not changed his strategy; he still casts seeds of doubt about God's character. But the Father of truth has spoken the final word in Jesus.

## Reflection Questions:

1. Which of the four lies feels most familiar or tempting in your current season?
2. How does believing "God is holding back what's best for me" affect the way you pray or make decisions?
3. Why do you think these lies are so effective at distorting our view of God?
4. What truth from Genesis 3:15 or John 10:10 directly counters one of these lies for you today?

**Prayer Prompt:** Lord, forgive me for believing lies about You. Shine Your light on the specific lie I have accepted. Help me trust that You are generous, truthful, and for me. Amen.

**Action Step:** Choose one of the four lies. Write it on paper, cross it out, and write the opposite truth beside it. Keep it where you will see it this week.

# Day 3: Jesus Reveals the True Father

**Bible Reading:** John 14:9, Hebrews 1:3

Jesus did not come merely to teach about God; He came to show us God. If our picture of God does not match who Jesus is—especially the self-giving love of Jesus on the cross—then our picture is polluted.

John 14:9 is one of the most stunning statements in Scripture: “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” Hebrews 1:3 adds that Jesus is the exact representation of God’s being. The Father is not harsher, angrier, or more distant than Jesus. He looks just like Jesus.

The lies we believe about God are exposed and healed when we look at Jesus. The father of lies wants us to see God as a suspicious tyrant. Jesus shows us a Father who runs toward prodigals, touches lepers, and dies for enemies. When we let Jesus redefine “Father” for us, everything changes—our prayers, our obedience, our rest, our hope.

## Reflection Questions:

1. How does John 14:9 comfort or challenge the way you currently picture God the Father?
2. What specific aspect of Jesus’ life or death most clearly shows you the heart of the Father?
3. If someone asked you, “What is God the Father like?” how would you answer after today’s reading?
4. Where do you need the truth of Hebrews 1:3 to replace a distorted view this week?

**Prayer Prompt:** Jesus, thank You for showing me the Father. Heal every distorted picture I have carried. Let me see You clearly so I can see Him clearly. Amen.

**Action Step:** Read John 14:9 slowly three times. Then pray, “Jesus, show me the Father’s heart for me right now.” Journal what comes to mind.

## Day 4: The Polluted Picture & Beth's Story

**Bible Reading:** John 8:44, John 10:10

Beth loved Jesus but said, "I have a problem with God." She had met Jesus in the Gospels and trusted Him, but her picture of God the Father was angry, judgmental, harsh, and unforgiving. That polluted picture was keeping her from intimacy with the Father.

It wasn't that God actually was those things—Beth's picture was polluted by lies she had believed. The father of lies had done his work.

When our view of God is distorted, we live anxious, striving, or distant lives. But Jesus came to give us life to the full. The only way to receive that fullness is to let Him cleanse the lies from our minds and hearts. Today, ask the Holy Spirit to show you where your picture of God needs the light of Jesus.

### Reflection Questions:

1. Can you relate to Beth's statement, "I like Jesus, but I have a problem with God"? Why or why not?
2. What words would you have used to describe God five years ago? What words would you use today?
3. How does believing a lie about God "steal, kill, and destroy" in practical ways?
4. What would change in your daily life if you truly believed God looks exactly like Jesus?

**Prayer Prompt:** Dear Holy Spirit, shine Your light on any polluted area of my picture of God. I want to see the Father as Jesus reveals Him. Cleanse my heart and mind. Amen.

**Action Step:** Think of one area where you feel distant from God. Write a short prayer asking Jesus to show you the Father's heart in that specific area.

# Day 5: Identify, Replace, Confide

**Bible Reading:** John 8:31-32, Colossians 1:12-14

The sermon closed with three clear action steps: Identify the lie, Replace the lie with truth, and Confide in a trusted friend. These steps are not complicated, but they require honesty and courage.

Many of us live for years with polluted pictures of God because we never name the lie. Others name it but never intentionally replace it with Scripture and the truth about Jesus. Still others try to do it alone and stay stuck.

The good news is that the Father who loves you is not shocked or ashamed of you. He has already rescued you from the dominion of darkness and brought you into the kingdom of the Son He loves. Today is the day to stop running and come home to the Father whose arms are open. Freedom is available right now in Jesus.

## Reflection Questions:

1. What specific lie about God have you identified this week? Write it plainly.
2. What Bible truth or verse about Jesus will you use to replace that lie? (Use John 14:9 or Hebrews 1:3 if needed.)
3. Who is one trusted friend you could confide in this week about this struggle?
4. What would it look like for you to “stop running and come home to the Father” this week?

**Prayer Prompt:** Loving Father, I bring You the lie I have believed. I choose to replace it with the truth that Jesus shows me who You really are. Give me courage to confide in a friend. Thank You for Your open arms. Amen.

**Action Step:** Write the lie on one side of a card and the replacing truth on the other. Carry it with you. Share it with one trusted person this week.

# Day 6: Coming Home to The Father

**Bible Reading:** John 10:10, Luke 15:20-24

The sermon ended with a warm, urgent invitation: “Is today the day you stop running and come home to the Father? He has been waiting for you this whole time. His arms are open. His heart is full of love for you.”

Whether your earthly father was present or absent, loving or disappointing, the true Father is not like any human father. He is the Father Jesus came to reveal—the One who runs to meet prodigals, who lavishes love because of Jesus, not because we earned it.

This week we have identified lies, replaced them with truth, and been invited to confide in others. The journey is not over; it is just beginning. Keep letting Jesus show you the Father. Keep rejecting the polluted pictures. Keep coming home. The abundant life Jesus promised is found in the arms of the Father who loves you.

## Reflection Questions:

1. What is one key insight or lie you are leaving behind after these six days?
2. How has your view of God the Father changed or been clarified this week?
3. If you are a dad, what is one specific way you will reflect the Father’s heart to your children this week?
4. Who is one person you can share this hope with this week? How will you celebrate the truth that you are loved by the Father?

**Prayer Prompt:** : Father, thank You for waiting for me with open arms. I come home to You today. Keep cleansing my picture of You through Jesus. Use me to help others come home too. Amen.

**Action Step:** Memorize John 14:9 this week. Review this guide each morning. Share one takeaway with a friend or family member today. Keep coming home.

## **How to Use This Guide:**

Set aside 10-15 minutes daily. Read the Bible, reflect on the thought, answer questions, pray, and take the action step. Commit to this for growth—journal insights and share with a friend for accountability.



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