

Lifegroup notes from Sunday 12 June 2022

Reading: Luke 11:1-13

Love of the Father

Our vision statement is L.I.F.E. to the Full. We break that down to four parts, life to the full means living fully where we experience

Love of the Father

Identity in Christ

Fire of the Spirit

Everyone's welcome.



Over the next few weeks we'll remind ourselves of these. On Sunday we began by taking another look at some important aspects to our relationship with the God who created the universe, Who is entirely and utterly Other, Whose power we cannot begin to fathom, and Whose purity is eternally untainted: He wants us to know Him as Father! Within the context of Fatherly love we are to have the security, provision and guidance we need to grow and develop fully into the likeness of Jesus.

We have the access to God that children have with their earthly parents. It's a privileged space to be in. This access is illustrated in the story of the man needing help late at night – because of the shameless audacity his request is met. Children ask their parents all kinds of things, safe in the knowledge they are loved and welcome.

Paul tells us in Romans 8:14-17 that the Spirit testifies with our spirit in a way that convinces us deep down in the fibre of our being that we are God's children.

The illustration Jesus gives of earthly fathers not giving dangerous gifts to children seeking food is an illustration of how free our Heavenly Father pours Holy Spirit onto us in order that we can be convinced we are His.

This access as children is a privilege, and one not to be squandered or ignored. "When you pray" says Jesus, not if. There's an absolute expectation that God's children will be in regular communication with Him as He is the source of our security, hope, provision, wisdom. By living closely with Him we reveal the kingdom of God to the world.

We all need to experience a fresh and regular infilling of the Spirit to avoid feeling like abandoned orphans in the world. Life to the full means a life where we know we are loved by our Father.

Some questions

- What encouraged or challenged you in this message?
- Can you think of a good example of a father's love in literature, film, tv?
- What difference does it make to you to know you are a child of a Heavenly Father?
- Jonathan spoke of how our experience of earthly fathers might distort our image of Heavenly Father. How can we help one another live in the reality of who God is?
- How does having a fundamental identity as God's children change the way we pray?
- Paul says the Spirit convinces us we are God's children. Have you an experience of this?
- How do we ensure we are regularly being filled with the Spirit so that we are reminded who we really are?