## L GROUNDWORK

# Jesus: Our Everlasting Father

The prophet Isaiah continued to reveal the nature of the coming Messiah when he prophesied that he would be the "Everlasting Father." Join us as we discuss how our understanding of the Triune God clarifies how the Son of God can also be our Everlasting Father. Together, let's prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas with an Advent reflection on the true nature of a father as revealed to us in both the Old and New Testaments. We'll better understand how this extraordinary title reveals the nature of Jesus and discover the comfort and belonging he brings to us.

**AWARENESS** Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What does "father" mean to you?
- How would you describe the type of relationship you have with God now?



READ Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 63:15-16, John 14:6-14, 1 John 1:1-4, 1 John 3:1-3

**REFLECTION** After listening, consider the following questions:

- What is your relationship like with your earthly father or father figure? Is your relationship with God similar to that relationship or different?
- In segment 1, hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney reflect on Jesus teaching us to pray by addressing God as "Our Father," inviting us into a closer, more intimate relationship. Do you think your relationship with God reflects the intimate relationship God desires to have with you? What does it tell you about God's character that he is willing to be this close to us?
- Reread Luke 11:11-13 and reflect on Darrell's commentary: "I love when Jesus says: 'How much more?' He is trying to show that you have a father who has tried his best to provide for you on this earth, and he is not perfect; he has made mistakes; he has dropped the ball; but your heavenly Father is never going to drop the ball. He is always going to be there for you; he is always going to give you exactly what you need; and is there willing to help you, so you don't need to be afraid of him." What feelings stir in you as you read and reflect on this truth?
- What did you think of Darrell's analogy likening happiness to a thermometer and joy to a thermostat?

#### **RELATED PASSAGES** for further study

Psalm 89, Psalm 103:13, Isaiah 64:8, John 10:22-38, Matthew 6:5-15, Luke 11:1-13, Romans 8:14-17

### CONCLUSION

We call Jesus our Everlasting Father because he and the Father are one (John 10:30). Everything the Bible says about God the Father is also true about Jesus. Darrell reminds us that based on Romans 8, Jesus "is our Everlasting Father because he gives birth to a new nation of people who are kingdom-minded people who are believers in his name and the person and work of what he has done." As they close the episode Darrell and Scott bring us back to 1 John 3:1 and the idea that we belong because being "children of God" is our identity. Picture God's love being lavished on you. What images or analogies come to mind to help you envision it? Close your time in prayer giving thanks to your Everlasting Father for his abundant love.

#### https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/jesus-our-everlasting-father

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