

The Father Heart of God

Description:

This highly experiential course is designed to draw you into a closer relationship with your heavenly Father, in which you have not only a theological understanding of His deep love and affection for you, but you also know it because you have personally felt it. You will also learn how to help others overcome any hindrances in their lives that prevent them from experiencing the love of the Father for themselves. (Prerequisite: REN 103 Communion with God)

Objectives:

- You will quote the following verses:
 - ✓ I John 3:1
 - ✓ II Corinthians 6:17b, 18
 - ✓ Luke 15:31
 - ✓ Isaiah 49:15,16a
 - ✓ Romans 5:5b
 - ✓ Romans 8:31, 32, 38, 39
 - ✓ Zephaniah 3:17
 - ✓ Jeremiah 29:11
 - ✓ John 16:27
 - ✓ Psalm 139:15, 16
- You will state a definition of agape, and discuss a Scripture reference describing God's agape love for us.
- You will state a definition of phileo, and discuss a Scripture reference describing God's phileo love for us.
- You will experience both God's agape and His phileo love for you.
- You will list and describe the seven steps involved in healing wounded hearts.
- You will experience God's healing of your own wounded heart.

- You will have an increased knowledge and revelation of the character of your God.
- You will share the Father's sorrow over sin and what it does to bring destruction on all that it touches.
- You will understand the loving motivation that is seen in Father's holy acts of justice.
- You will glory in the cross of Christ, where the power of sin was broken and righteousness made possible for man.
- You will embrace the grace that produces the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.
- You will have a deep, settled, "knowing" in your spirit that the Father loves you, no matter what circumstances you face.
- You will allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the motives and intents behind your service and sacrifices.
- You will daily grow in your ability to "live loved."
- You will trust your Father more and more each day.

Texts:

He Loves Me! by Wayne Jacobsen

Experiencing Father's Embrace by Jack Frost

The Father Heart of God by Floyd McClung Jr.

Requirements:

- 1) Prayerfully read *He Loves Me* by Wayne Jacobsen as assigned, completing all exercises at the end of each chapter. There are two categories of exercises: "For Your Personal Journey" and "For Group Discussion." Answer all of the questions in both categories. However, do not strive to answer them out of your own mind and knowledge. Use them to stimulate your journaling. Ask the Lord for His insights into your own heart and in recognizing His working in your life. Also, seek His wisdom for helping others feel His Father love for them.

We strongly recommend that instead of completing an entire lesson in one sitting, for this course you spread each lesson out over several days. Slowly and carefully read one chapter each day, then take the time to allow the Lord to say everything He wants to say to you through journaling. Use the questions at the end of each chapter to stimulate your conversations with the Him and give Him the chance to bring deep healing and greater intimacy into your relationship with Him. Give God time to work in you.

You will be submitting the answers to all of the exercises for the course to your instructor for grading on completeness and use of two-way journaling. Prepare your answers in a way that is easiest to do this. You may type your answers in computer and submit them as email attachments. This is the preferred method of our CLU instructors. If you are not able to prepare your work on computer, you may submit a hard copy by postal service. However, if you do so, be sure to submit a COPY of your work (not the original), as there is no guarantee that it will not be lost in transit!

- 2) Wayne Jacobsen offers many free audio and video downloads of his teachings on his website www.lifestream.org. Although they will not be specifically assigned (since we cannot be sure what will be there at any given time), you are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this wonderful resource and listen to as many of these as you can. They are truly anointed revelations of the Father's love and will be a great help in bringing you a revelation of His heart for you and growth in living in that love on a daily basis.
- 3) Prayerfully read Experiencing Father's Embrace by Jack Frost as assigned, completing the "Questions for Discussion" at the end of each chapter. Do not strive to answer them out of your own mind and knowledge. Use them to stimulate your journaling. Ask the Lord for His insights into your own heart and in recognizing His working in your life. You will be submitting the answers to all of the exercises for the course to your instructor for grading on completeness and use of two-way journaling. Prepare your answers in a way that is easiest to do this. You may type your answers in computer and submit them as email attachments. This is the preferred method of our CLU instructors. If you are not able to prepare your work on computer, you may submit a hard copy by postal service. However, if you do so, be sure to submit a COPY of your work, as there is no guarantee that it will not be lost in transit!

Standards for Grading Assignments

As indicated below, "C" or 2.0 level work is considered average. **Leaders are not average people.** You are therefore expected (required) to put forth the effort necessary to demonstrate at least "B" (3.0) level work or higher on all assignments which you submit. Any which do not will be returned to you with input from your instructor on how you can raise your grade to the expected level. **A course grade will not be given until your assignments demonstrate that you have understood the material presented in the course and allowed your life to be transformed by the Spirit and the Word studied** — the requirements for attaining a "B".

Your individual assignments (notebooks, tests, reports) will be graded according to the following standards. These grades will be averaged together to determine your course grade. Remember, We are training leaders and leaders are above-average people. Your work will reflect that.

- "D"
 - Indicates barely passing work that is inferior to the average both in quantity and in quality.
 - Manifests a lack of initiative or sense of responsibility or both.
- "C"
 - Average work; either steady work of an acceptable quality, or work of a high quality which is uneven, irregular or fragmentary.
 - May be mechanically or outwardly correct but shows little reflection upon or personal assimilation of the material.
- "B"
 - Intelligently has fulfilled the requirements of this course.
 - Understands the subject matter presented and has applied it to his life in a limited manner but has not really made the truths his own.
- "A"
 - Grasped the material with thoroughness, industry and correctness of detail.
 - Made the material his own by thinking about it and integrating it, using originality, natural ability, and insight.

In addition, at the end of each chapter is a prayer. Take the time to make each of these prayers from your own heart. They are key to experiencing the Father's love for you.

- 4) The "Afterward" (beginning on page 241) in Experiencing Father's Embrace is a love letter from your Father God. At least once each week while you are taking this course (and once each day would be even better), slowly and prayerfully read this letter out loud so you can hear the words. See your Father speaking them to you, His special child. Allow His love to seep into every pore of your being. Before you read, ask the Spirit to breathe into the words, making them revelation to your heart and soul.
- 5) Jack Frost offers several audio and video resources at the end of his book. We are not requiring you to buy or listen to any of these, but you are strongly encouraged to consider these resources. They will be especially helpful if you are struggling to experience God's personal love for you.
- 6) Prayerfully read The Father Heart of God by Floyd McClung Jr. as assigned, completing the related exercises in the "Study Guide" at the end of the book. Do not strive to answer them out of your own mind and knowledge. Use them to stimulate your journaling. Ask the Lord for His insights into your own heart and in recognizing His working in your life. Also, seek His wisdom for helping others feel His Father love for them.

You will be submitting the answers to all of the exercises for the course to your instructor for grading on completeness and use of two-way journaling. Prepare your answers in a way that is easiest to do this. You may type your answers in computer and submit them as email attachments. This is the preferred method of our CLU instructors. If you are not able to prepare your work on computer, you may submit a hard copy by postal service. However, if you do so, be sure to submit a COPY of your work, as there is no guarantee that it will not be lost in transit!

- 7) The purpose and objectives of this course are very personal and subjective. As a result of your taking this course, our hope is that you will have a deep, intimate awareness of the Father's love for you. This cannot come as a result of an academic, intellectual exercise, but must come from a revelation of the Holy Spirit. Because He speaks through the Logos,

most of your memorization for this course will be Scripture verses. And because He speaks through rhema, your regular weekly exercises will be two-way journaling assignments.

At the end of the course, write a Personal Response paper describing what the Lord has taught you and done in your life as a result of your pursuit of Him in this course. Use specific Scriptures that He illumined to you and include passages from your journaling that were especially powerful to you. This is to be a minimum of 4 pages, 12 point font, and is due in Lesson 12.

- 8) After you have received the revelation of how to live in the Father's love, you will notice changes taking place in many areas of your life: in your spiritual life, your family relationships, and maybe even in your church activities. And you will be challenged by other people as well as the Enemy, trying to get you to move back into the struggle to earn God's love for you by your holiness or religious activities. When they see your freedom to live in grace, earnest sisters may accuse you of "sloppy agape" – using the unconditional love of God as a license to sin. When you refuse to allow guilt to be the motivation that forces you to participate in a legitimate church activity, your dedicated brothers may remind you that "faith without works is dead." When you hear a passionate sermon by an anointed evangelist who leads at least one person to the Lord every single day, satan will whisper that you are a failure and unloved by Father if you do not do the same. When these temptations to fall from grace assail you, you must have a firm foundation upon which you can stand in your new life. This foundation is the Word of God – both the Logos of the Scriptures and the rhema that Father has spoken directly into your heart.

Therefore, you are to write a Biblical Truth paper which presents the biblical, theological basis for your faith in God's love of you as your Father and what the Scripture teaches are the results of living in that love. This may involve researching all the references to God as the Father of His children. You may want to do a concordance study on law and grace. You could explore the place of works or holiness in the believer's life. Ask the Lord to show you what lie from satan or pressure from other people or personal trait within you will be the most effective point of attack against you. Then allow Him to lead you into the meditation that will be most effective in keeping

you in His love and drawing you back if you fall away. Include journaling about the Scriptures as part of your meditation process.

This paper is to be a minimum of 6 pages, 12 point font, and is due in Lesson 10.

9) Earn at least a B on the Final Test.

REN105 The Father Heart of God

Course Schedule

Lesson One

Assignment to be completed:

Carefully read the entire course syllabus to this point, including Course Description, Course Objectives and especially the Course Requirements.

Prayerfully read the Foreword, Introduction and Chapters 1 - 5 of He Loves Me! by Wayne Jacobsen. Answer all of the questions in the “For Your Personal Journey” and “For Group Discussion” sections at the end of each chapter. (See assignment #1 above.)

Watch or listen to one of Wayne Jacobsen’s teachings online (assignment #2 above).

Ask the Holy Spirit to anoint the Words, and read aloud the Afterward from Experiencing the Father’s Embrace, beginning on page 241. (See assignment #4 above.)

Memorize I John 3:1.

Subjects to be explored:

Daisy-Petal Christianity

What Jesus’ Disciples Didn’t Know

Threatened with Hell

A Father Like No Other

Welcome Home

Related objectives:

- You will quote I John 3:1. (“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”)
- You will have a deep, settled, “knowing” in your spirit that the Father loves you, no matter what circumstances you face.
- You will understand the loving motivation that is seen in Father’s holy acts of justice.

Lesson Two

Assignment to be completed:

Prayerfully read Chapters 6 – 10 of He Loves Me! Answer all of the questions at the end of each chapter, including “For Your Personal Journey” and “For Group Discussion.” (See assignment #1 above.)

Ask the Holy Spirit to anoint the Words, and read aloud the Afterward from Experiencing the Father’s Embrace, beginning on page 241. (See assignment #4 above.)

Memorize II Corinthians 6:17b, 18.

Related Objectives:

- You will quote II Corinthians 6:17b, 18. (“I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” says the Lord Almighty.”)
- You will allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the motives and intents behind your service and sacrifices.
- You will have a deep, settled, “knowing” in your spirit that the Father loves you, not because of anything you have done for Him or given to Him, but just because you are His.

Subjects to be explored:

The Tyranny of the Favor Line

What Shall I Give to God?

The Businessman and the Beggar

The God We Love to Fear

The Most Powerful Force in the Universe