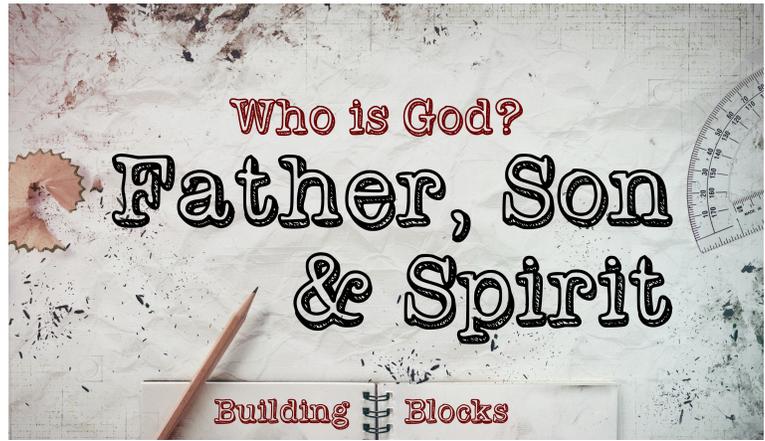


02 • God the FATHER

God the Father fulfilled a wonderful plan to send God the Son to save us and God the Spirit to guide us. God is **ABOVE** us. Nothing else, no one else is like him. He is more glorious than we can possibly imagine (Phil 2:8-11).



In what way is he **"Father"**? He reveals himself throughout the New Testament as:

- The Father of _____ (Col 1:3)
- The Father of _____ (2 Cor 1:3)
- The Father of _____ (Heb 12:9)
- The Father of _____ (James 1:17)

On top of it all, at the heart of the gospel is the news of the Father with a plan to reconcile. In Ephesians 1...

Blessed be the God and _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places... (1:3)

...making known to us the mystery of his _____, according to his _____, which he set forth in Christ as a _____ for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. (1:9-10)

...the purpose of him who _____ all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his _____. (1:11-12)

Notice how Ephesians 1:18-23 describes this plan:

- He has _____ you
- The riches of his glorious inheritance
- The immeasurable greatness of his _____
- The working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he _____ him from the dead
- He gave him as head over all things to the church

"For God so loved the world..." What wonderful news!

For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's dig a little deeper using 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. What does this passage teach us about the heart and work of God the **Father**?
- In your own words, what does it mean to be **"reconciled"** to God (2 Cor 5:20)?
- Galatians 4:4-7 describes those who have been **"reconciled"** to God as **"adopted"** by God. What are they able to cry in Galatians 4:6? What does this mean?
- How does Jesus teach his disciples to pray in Matthew 6:9? Let's think through that verse. What can we learn? Why is it incredibly good news?
- What about Jesus' words to the Samaritan woman in John 4:23-24? What does the Father want from us?
- How does John 6:57 help us understand why we should trust what Jesus is telling us about the Father?
- In your own words, what role does God the Father play?