

Our Father in Heaven

The Jews rarely called God Father before Jesus came. The whole nation of Israel was called God's son, and the king, representing the entire nation, was sometimes called God's son. But an individual would not call God "Father."

To the Jews, God's name was so holy they wouldn't even speak it. Those who copied scripture would take a bath before writing it. Yet here came this uneducated peasant calling God His Father. The Jews' response: *The Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He . . . was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.* (John 5:18, NASB)

Yet Jesus teaches us to speak to God the same way. In fact, we are encouraged to call Him "Abba," which roughly translates as "Daddy." Though we are weak and pitiful creatures living on a speck of dust in one corner of the universe, the great, transcendent Creator wants us to speak to Him in the most personal and familiar terms.

Since prayer is the breath of our relationship with God, how wonderful to address Him as *Our Father!* A warm, trusting relationship is established from the very beginning. What a privilege to call God by this simple, personal name!

When I call Him "Father," I am one-on-one, face-to-face with Him. Prayer is no longer the daunting task of trying to reach up and talk to an unseen Spirit way out there somewhere. Prayer is personal conversation, a quiet whisper directly from my heart to His. Simple. Warm. Intimate. He loves me. He is listening. I belong. I am welcome here.

This one I call "Father" is *in heaven* – ruling in the power center of all reality, high above, almighty, all-knowing, holy. And this One who is above all is Father to me. I can come to Him as a small child with all my needs, unafraid and in complete confidence.

"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:11-13, NIV)

When I come to God, He not only gives me what I need but also gives me His own Spirit. His gives me Himself. Somehow He joins His life to mine, enabling me to be the person He wants me to be. What a wonderful gift! What a loving Father!

Hymn options:
[Father, Your Name](#)
[God My Father](#)