



Source

DISCUSSION ►

What do you think is the most common descriptive term for God in the New Testament section of the Bible? Here are your choices.

King Father Almighty Judge Holy One

- ✓ Check those you believe are absolutely true of God.
- X Mark an X beside those you believe are NOT true of God.
- ? Place a question mark beside those about which you just aren't sure.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> living (alive) | <input type="checkbox"/> infinite (no beginning or end) | <input type="checkbox"/> eternal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> omnipotent (all-powerful) | <input type="checkbox"/> omniscient (all-knowing) | <input type="checkbox"/> omnipresent (present everywhere) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> holy (perfect) | <input type="checkbox"/> wise | <input type="checkbox"/> impartial |

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> loving | <input type="checkbox"/> patient | <input type="checkbox"/> compassionate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> forgiving | <input type="checkbox"/> faithful | <input type="checkbox"/> generous |
| <input type="checkbox"/> kind | <input type="checkbox"/> responsive | <input type="checkbox"/> personal |

Total checkmarks in shaded area: _____

Total in unshaded area: _____

*His anger lasts only a moment,
but his favor lasts a lifetime.*

—PSALM 30:5

Mark a *D* at the place on each line that depicts how you experienced your dad when you were little, say, in elementary school. If you didn't have a dad, choose the closest person you had to a father figure.

Next put a *G* on each line at the place that represents how you see God these days.

Gentle -----G-----D----- Stern
Close----- Distant
Talkative----- Silent
Patient----- Explosive
Joyful----- Somber
Encouraging-----Critical
Interested----- Apathetic
Kind----- Harsh
Honest----- Deceitful
Consistent----- Erratic

What do your responses show you, if anything?

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FOR REFLECTION

During the group discussion, you were asked to mark which of the characteristics of God seem true to you, which seem false, and which you were unsure of. Look at them again, but this time think of them in terms of which ones you *experience* as you relate to God. For instance, you may think that God is kind, but you may not experience this kindness when you try to relate to Him.

E Place an *E* beside those you experience personally

B Place a *B* beside those you believe but do *not* experience

___ Leave the others blank

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ___ living (alive) | ___ infinite (no beginning or end) | ___ eternal |
| ___ omnipotent (all-powerful) | ___ omniscient (all-knowing) | ___ omnipresent (present everywhere) |
| ___ holy (perfect) | ___ wise | ___ impartial |
| ___ loving | ___ patient | ___ compassionate |
| ___ forgiving | ___ faithful | ___ generous |
| ___ kind | ___ responsive | ___ personal |

What did this exercise reveal to you, if anything?

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The lyrics of the song “Beautiful Like This,” by Josh Wilson, were played during the DVD presentation. See if you relate.

The fading sun and rising moon
Are fighting for the afternoon
The day gives in and yields its light
The stars wake up to keep the night
As your glory fills the sky I wonder
How could you consider me
So much more than all I see
Because I am not, have never been
Beautiful like this

My weary words and broken lives
Are set beneath your summer skies
What’s worn and wrong, what’s good and right
Are laid before my eyes tonight
As your glory fills the sky I wonder
How could you consider me
So much more than all I see
Because I am not, and never been
Beautiful like this

But you make all things new
Yes, you make all things new
I’m beautiful in you
That’s how you could consider me
So much more than all I see
Redemption calls to broken men,
It heals their wounds, removes their sin

Your purest love was humbly spent
To bind my heart, and draw me in
Where I become whole again
I’m beautiful like this

Here are some reasons a person may resist the idea of God being a loving Father. If you find yourself pushing away any thought of a loving heavenly Father, do any of these lie beneath that resistance?

- ___ I just don't believe it's possible that God is like that.
- ___ I feel so unworthy of that kind of love.
- ___ I used to believe it, but too many bad things have happened to me.
- ___ I've been burned too many times when I've trusted someone to be loving.
- ___ I don't want to believe in a God of any kind because that would mean I would have to do things His way.
- ___ I am uncomfortable with the experience or feeling of love. It's just too . . . squishy!
- ___ Other _____

You might want to slowly make your way through these Scriptures that highlight God as Father. Underline anything that stands out to you.

*A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling. —PSALM 68:5*

*"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?
Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?
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 good gifts to those who
ask him! —MATTHEW 7:9–11*

*One day Jesus was praying in a certain place.
When he finished, one of his disciples said to him,
"Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."
He said to them, "When you pray, say:
"'Father, . . .'" —LUKE 11:1, 2*

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*For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear,
but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."
The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.*
—ROMANS 8:15, 16 (*Abba* is Aramaic for Daddy)

*Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
He is the Father who gives tender love.
All comfort comes from him.* —2 CORINTHIANS 1:3, 4, *NIRV*

*"I will be a Father to you,
and you will be my sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty."* —2 CORINTHIANS 6:18

*You have forgotten that word of hope.
It speaks to you as children. It says,
"My son, think of the Lord's training as important.
Do not lose hope when he corrects you.
The Lord trains those he loves.
He punishes everyone he accepts as a son."* —HEBREWS 12:5, 6, *NIRV*

*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!* —1 JOHN 3:1

Could you talk to a fatherly God like these passages describe? If you are willing, try it.