

No. 3 Word Pictures That Inspire Faith in Jehovah (Symposium) —Father

Note to speaker:

This is the second talk of a four-part symposium. The questions in the main headings follow the same format in each talk. Explain how picturing Jehovah as our Father inspires faith and makes us feel secure. This talk includes an interview

HOW DOES PICTURING JEHOVAH AS A FATHER INSPIRE FAITH IN HIM? (5 min.)

Few words evoke deeper emotions in humans than the word “father”

For many, it brings to mind a loving parent who has deep concern for the welfare of his family
Jehovah is our Father (Mt 6:9)

He is our Life-Giver and provides good things to sustain life and make it enjoyable

Like a devoted human father, Jehovah expresses his love for his children—us—in numerous ways

His *approval* gives us strength and courage

Meditating on God’s love and approval gives us a sense of personal happiness and fulfillment

Be assured that nothing can “separate us from God’s love” (Ro 8:38, 39)

His *compassion* assures us that he desires to alleviate our suffering and adversity (Ps 34:15, 18)

We have confidence that he can deliver us and can satisfy our needs and proper desires

His *discipline* safeguards us and helps us to make spiritual progress (Heb 12:6, 7, 11)

A loving father disciplines his children because he cares about the kind of people they will become

God’s discipline is always given in love and is never abusive

WHEN IS IT ESPECIALLY HELPFUL TO THINK OF JEHOVAH AS A FATHER? (4 min.)

Jehovah’s Word invites us to pour out our hearts to him at all times (Ps 62:8)

We especially need to call out to him when we are anxious, discouraged, or depressed (1Pe 5:6, 7; *kp* 25, box)

Satan may try to make us doubt whether we are worthy of Jehovah’s approval (*c/* 240 ¶2)

The Devil often does this when we are most vulnerable, such as when we are ill or infirm or when we are staggering under the weight of failures and disappointments

When we ask our heavenly Father for help, Jehovah bends down and listens (Ps 88:1, 2, ftn.)

Like an attentive human parent, Jehovah is eager to respond to our needs and requests

HOW CAN WE DEMONSTRATE THAT JEHOVAH IS A FATHER TO US? (2 min.)

Ask for Jehovah’s holy spirit to help you think clearly and make wise decisions [**Read Luke 11:11-13**]

We should not view our trials as expressions of Jehovah’s displeasure (*wO6* 12/15 23 ¶14)

By focusing on the glorious future he has promised us, we demonstrate faith that our Father will make “all things new” in his due time (Re 21:5; *c/* 77-78 ¶1-3)

INTERVIEW (2 min.)

[Interview a publisher who experienced a period of discouragement in the past but is now very positive in his outlook and disposition. Identify the source of the discouragement, but do not focus on the negative details. Have him explain how viewing Jehovah as a Father helped him to overcome the source of his discouragement and to feel secure in Jehovah’s loving arms]

RELY ON JEHOVAH AS YOUR FATHER (1 min.)

Jehovah offers to take you by the hand and rescue you from life’s calamities (Isa 41:10, 13)

Now Brother _____ will develop the theme “Word Pictures That Inspire Faith in Jehovah—Rock”

(Speaker does not need to read or comment on every cited text or discuss every subpoint)