

Jesus Came to Show Us the Father

December 17, 2023 ▪ Brad Manley

Why we need to know the Father.

Why the Father is seen in Jesus.

What Jesus reveals about the Father.

John 14:8-11

⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What are some ways you're like your father? (If you can't think of ways you're *like* your father, then maybe share some ways that you're *unlike* him.)

Read: John 14:8-11

Discuss:

1. What do you think Philip meant when he told Jesus it would be "enough" for them if they could see the Father (v. 8)? Have you found yourself at times desiring to experience God more fully? If so, what did you do to help realize that goal?
2. **Read John 17:1-3.** According to verse 3, why is it important that we know the Father? Why does Jesus connect the glorification of the Son (v. 1) with His followers knowing the Father (v. 3)? What does Jesus expect God the Father to do when He says to the Father, "glorify your Son" in verse 1?
3. In John 14:9, Jesus rebuked Philip for his lack of perception. How might Philip have had the opportunity to see the Father in Jesus? Are there important truths about God you were slow to recognize? What helped you to finally see them?
4. What do you think Jesus meant in both verses 10 and 11 when He said, "I am in the Father and the Father is in me"? (Note also John 10:38 and 17:21.) Notice that Jesus did not say, "I am the Father." Instead, He always distinguishes Himself from the Father, and actually refers to the Father about 100 times in John's gospel. Why might Jesus making this distinction be so important?
5. Looking at Jesus' explanation in verse 10b regarding the way that He and the Father function together, how would you put this explanation in your own words? (Note also John 5:19.) Jesus encourages Philip to believe Jesus' works as testimony of His relationship with the Father (v. 11). In what way do the works of Jesus demonstrate the presence of the Father?
6. How could this passage be used when sharing the Gospel with an unbeliever? (What would you want to make sure that person understood about Jesus from this passage?)

Apply: What will you do in this last week of Advent before Christmas to help you better see the Father through the words and works of Jesus?

Pray: Ask God to cause us to better see and delight in God the Father through better seeing and delighting in God the Son.