

# this is our God

Psalm 103 describes God as compassionate, merciful, slow to anger, and filled with unfailing love. In spite of this, it's easy to have misconceptions about God that contradict Psalm 103. If we're not careful, we can allow circumstances to shape our view of God rather than His Word. Thankfully, Psalm 103 helps clear up many of our misconceptions. Today, we'll see that God is, perhaps best of all, a good father.

## Discussion Questions:

1. Looking back at your sermon notes, what encouraged or challenged you the most?

## Read Psalm 103:13-18

2. In Psalm 103, David describes the scope of God's immeasurable love and forgiveness (verses 11-12). How does that description compare to how David describes God in verse 14? What is the comparative significance of this view of God as our Father?
3. The word "compassion" used in verse 13 conveys a parent's deep feelings for their children – it's an emotionally descriptive word as much as it is an act of love. Reflect on the following verses and note what they reveal about God's compassion for His children: Isaiah 46:3-4; 49:15; Luke 15:20. How do these verses encourage you to run to God rather than hide from Him when you fail somewhere in life?
4. Reflect on each of the following passages and note what they reveal about God as a father: John 1:12; Matthew 6:7-9; Matthew 7:7-11; Galatians 4:6-7; Hebrews 12:3-11; Galatians 4:4-7; 1 John 3:1. Which characteristic about the fatherhood of God stands out to you the most? Why?
5. How does our experience with our earthly fathers shape the way we view God? How can Psalm 103 help overcome misconceptions about the fatherhood of God? How can the gospel encourage us as parents when we don't get it right with our children?
6. In verse 14, what two facts does God consider about us? What does this say about Him as our Father? How should this impact us as we relate to God as our Father? See Psalm 139:15-18.
7. Throughout the Bible, grass and wildflowers are used in various analogies. How do we see this happening in Isaiah 40:8 and Matthew 6:28-32? How is David using this analogy in Psalm 103:15-17 regarding God's love? When do you most need to be reminded of this truth about God's love?
8. What's one personal takeaway from today's study you can focus on applying in your life this week?