

Refuge 2.0.  
Youth Pastor: Pastor James Owolabi  
New Beginnings Church  
40 days of Prayer  
(360) 471-7260  
April 29th, 2018

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

This class will meet every Sunday for the next 3 weeks. [We won't meet in June, 2018](#)

**God answers prayers that are passionate and personal.**

*2 Kings 20*

*Sometime later, Hezekiah became deathly sick. The prophet Isaiah, son of Amoz, paid him a visit and said, "Put your affairs in order; you're about to die—you haven't long to live." Hezekiah turned from Isaiah and faced God, praying:*

*Remember, O God, who I am, and what I've done!  
I've lived an honest life before you,  
My heart's been true and steady,  
I've lived to please you; lived for your approval.  
And then the tears flowed, and Hezekiah wept.*

*4-6 Isaiah, leaving, was not halfway across the courtyard when the Word of God stopped him, saying, "Go back and tell Hezekiah, prince of my people, 'God's Word, Hezekiah! From the God of your ancestor David: I've listened to your prayer and I've observed your tears. I'm going to heal you. In three days, you will walk on your own legs into The Temple of God. I've just added fifteen years to your life; I'm saving you from the king of Assyria, and I'm covering this city with my shield—for my sake and my servant David's sake.'*

**In the Bible, God describes Himself as a Father. If you have never had an active father, nor a perfect father, in your life, then it is hard to understand God as a father.**

**What are some common effects of not having an active father?**

- 5 times greater chance of committing suicide.
- Chances of depression and anxiety are dramatically increased
- Lower job security.
- Sexual Identity issues

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- Boys don't learn a proper definition of how to be a man
- Girls don't learn a proper definition of beauty, love, and respect
- Higher chances of child becoming non-heterosexual
- Often sexually active at an early age
- Increased rates of divorce and relationship issues
- Lower self-esteem/self-confidence
- Often bullies and have anger management issues
- Substantially increased rates of substance abuse
- Increases in social and mental behavioral issues

#### **A father is a man who:**

- Loves his children and demonstrates real love to them
- Provides (financial and/or emotional) support for them
- Is *married* to the child's mother
- Is actively involved in the daily affairs of the family
- Lovingly disciplines his children when needed
- Praises his children when needed
- Is compassionate, consistent, reliable, encouraging, demonstrative of God, wants the best for his children
- Demonstrates holy love to his wife in the presence of his children
- Prepares for the future of his child.

#### **A father is *not***

- Someone who simply makes a baby with a woman (most anybody can do that)
- Someone who comes around once in a while when he wants
- Someone who is always in trouble with the law
- Someone who is not reliable
- Someone who beats/abuses the mother's children (for any reason)
- Someone who beats/abuses the children's mother (for any reason)...
- Someone who encourages children to do wrong or evil
- Someone who puts the woman's children in danger

#### **God is a Father who**

- Loves us and uses other godly men (and women) to provide support for us.
- Disciplines and corrects us when needed

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- Encourages His children
- Protects His children and keeps them from harm
- Provides for His children
- Demonstrated real love through His (Firstborn) Son
- Is actively involved in your daily lives (if you invite Him to be)
- God uses the Church and its community to provide correction, inspiration, and correction.
- Loves to communicate with His children
- Loves to listen to His children
- Loves to answer His children's prayers.
- Provides us with salvation through Jesus Christ.
- Is always with us, and will never leave us.

**Prayer is:**

- Listening to God
- Waiting on God
- Talking to God.
  - Prayer does not have not be a professional speech.

We pray because we have a **personal relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ.**

- God wants our prayers to be like a child having a conversation with a father.
- God is a father to us.

**God answers prayers that are:**

- Personal to the person who is praying
  - God wants us to be completely honest with Him.
  - Humble, like a child who needs direction.
  - Direct, like a child who knows their dad appreciates them.
- Passionate about what they are praying about in life.
  - Put some feeling into your prayers!
    - *"I've got to have this!"*

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- Imagine God asking, "how are you doing?" Then once you tell Him everything, imagine Him again asking, "No, really, how are you doing? What's going on?"
- Partnered with the Holy Spirit.
  - Sometimes you don't know how to express what you're feeling in words. In that case, just sit and pour out your feelings, hands up to the sky (or beating your chest), allowing the Holy Spirit to pray in your deepest emotions, on your behalf.
- In His Name
  - God will provide for what you need, but not always what you want. Be sure that what you're praying for is something that will give Him glory, or that is in line with His Will.

**Closing:** God answers prayers that are personal from a passionate heart.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What do you suppose it was about Hezekiah's prayer that God decided to prolong his life another 15 years, and also give Israel victory over the king of Assyria?
2. How do *YOU* pray?  
Looking at what prayer is, how does that compare to the way that you pray?
3. Jesus often mentions praying in His name. What do you think that means?
4. Look at the list of "God is a Father who..." Pick 2 that stand out to you, and discuss why they stand out.
5. Why do you think God uses the image of a Father?
6. Pray together