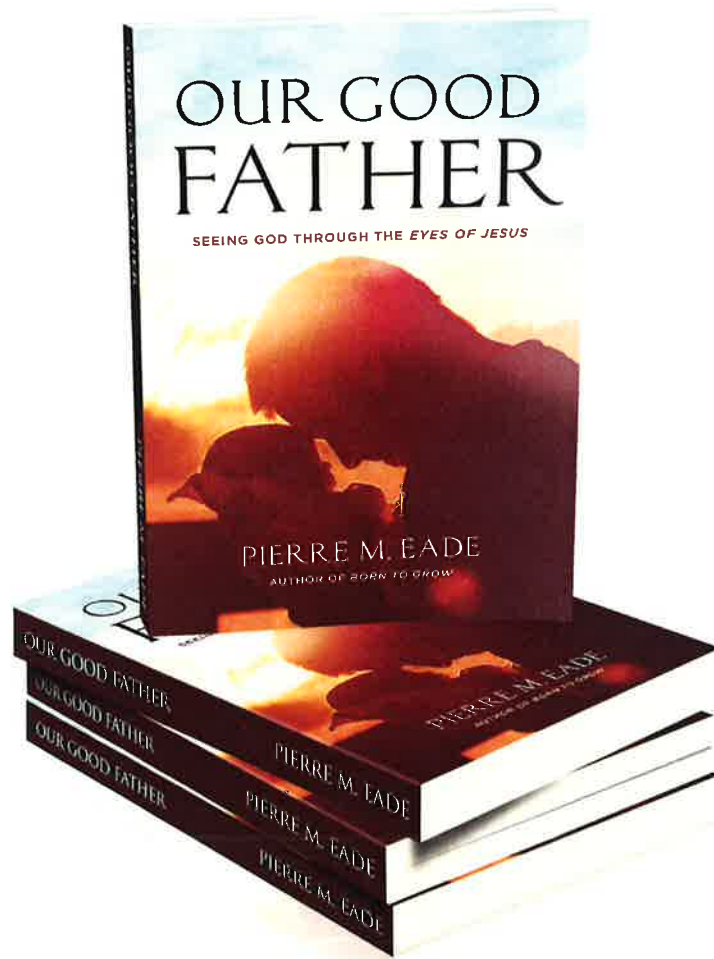


Our Good Father

SEEING GOD THROUGH *THE EYES OF JESUS*



Pierre M. Eade

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40 Years of Research...

Over forty years of research with thousands of people from different cultures worldwide has revealed that the _____ **acceptance or rejection of one's parents, and in particular the _____ or _____ figure**, has profound implications for a person's future.

Journal of the Society for Psychological Anthropology



40 Years of Research...

A child who **perceives they are _____** by their parents, and **especially their _____**, can have issues in adulthood with psychological adjustment, depression, anxiety, insecurity, behavioral problems and substance abuse.

Journal of the Society for Psychological Anthropology



40 Years of Research

“A person who experiences **parental rejection** in childhood is more likely to develop a worldview that **deems God and the supernatural in a _____, _____, _____ and _____ light**. In fact, societies where children tend to be rejected culturally usually portray God and the supernatural as being malevolent, not benevolent.”

Our Good Father, page 53.



Reflection

“If you had to describe your Dad in one word, what word would you choose?”



America's Four Gods

AMERICA'S
FOUR
GODS

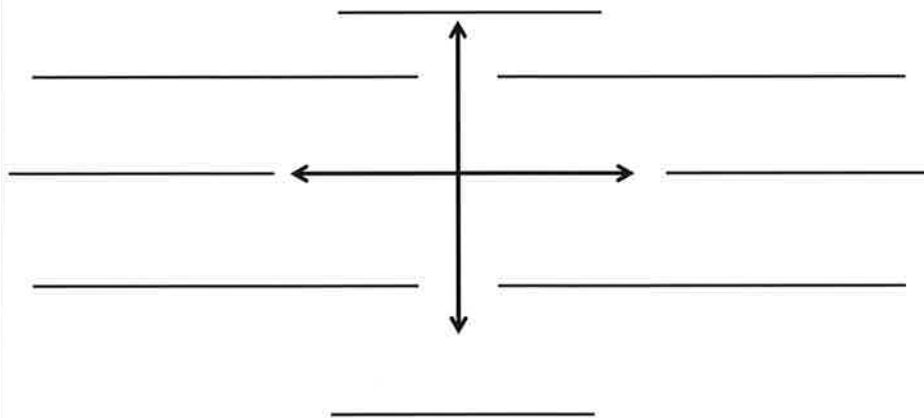
WHAT WE SAY
ABOUT GOD—
& WHAT THAT SAYS
ABOUT US

Paul Frouse & Christopher Bode

A _____
B _____
C _____
D _____
-E _____



America's Four Gods





God-to-Dad Connection

Authoritarian -

Benevolent -

Critical -

Distant -

Non-Existent -



Reflection

“Which of the views of God most accurately compares to your Dad?”

(See the Father Quiz at end of packet)



40 Years of Research...

The determining factor of whether a person can overcome a negatively perceived upbringing is based on one's belief that they can **“exert at least a modicum of _____ over what happens to them”** and do not feel like helpless **“_____”**.

Journal of the Society for Psychological Anthropology



Jesus the Expert

“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to _____ him.” (Matthew 11:27)



“Reveal”

- To take the cover off, uncover or disclose.



The Lost Son

¹¹ Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.



The Lost Son

¹³ “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.



The Lost Son

¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.



The Lost Son

²⁰“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’”



The Father's Response

²²“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.”



Reflection

“How does your current image of God compare with the Father that Jesus describes in this story?”



Contact Information

For free articles, and resources or to purchase additional signed copies of the book, please visit: www.ourgoodfather.com

If you are interested in connecting with Pierre on social media, joining his mailing list or having him speak at your church, retreat or upcoming conference please visit: www.pierreeade.com

The Father Quiz

Circle the number that best describes your father *during your childhood*. The higher the number (5) the more you feel this word describes your father, the lower the number the less (1). In the case that neither word truly describes your father, you can choose N/A. Only circle one number for each line (1-10). Give your first response, do not second-guess yourself.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|---|---|------------|---|
| 1. | A | Judgmental | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | N/A | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Kind | B |
| 2. | C | Critical | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | N/A | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Harsh | A |
| 3. | A | Authoritative | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | N/A | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Disengaged | D |
| 4. | E | Absent | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | N/A | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Angry | A |
| 5. | B | Compassionate | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | N/A | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Negative | C |
| 6. | B | Loving | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | N/A | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Distant | D |
| 7. | B | Engaged | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | N/A | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Missing | E |
| 8. | C | Belittling | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | N/A | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Far-off | D |
| 9. | C | Cynical | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | N/A | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Removed | E |
| 10. | D | Distracted | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | N/A | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Away | E |

Fill in the chart below with the number you circled above. So for example in line 1, if you circled the #3 on the side towards kind, you would put a number "3" in column "B". If you chose "N/A" you can put a zero (0) in the box below. If you fill this out correctly, each row below (1-10) should have one number in it. After you are done, total the numbers at the bottom.

| | A | B | C | D | E |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | | | | | |
| 2. | | | | | |
| 3. | | | | | |
| 4. | | | | | |
| 5. | | | | | |
| 6. | | | | | |
| 7. | | | | | |
| 8. | | | | | |
| 9. | | | | | |
| 10. | | | | | |
| Total | | | | | |

Take your total numbers from the chart above and fill them in the score card below.

| | Represents | Score |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|
| A | Authoritarian | |
| B | Benevolent | |
| C | Critical | |
| D | Distant | |
| E | Non-Existent (Absent) | |

Identify the two highest scores on the chart. These are the general descriptions of how your paternal father was towards you as a child.

In chapter 1 of *Our Good Father*, the author discusses how our view of our earthly father can affect our perception of Our Heavenly Father. In the Introduction of the book, the author mentions the four primary ways Americans view God according to the book *America's Four Gods*.

Quite often, the view of our father figure in childhood will also impact the way we see God. The Father quiz has been developed to help you see which of the same character traits best describe your paternal father and what correlations may exist between your perceptions of God the Father.

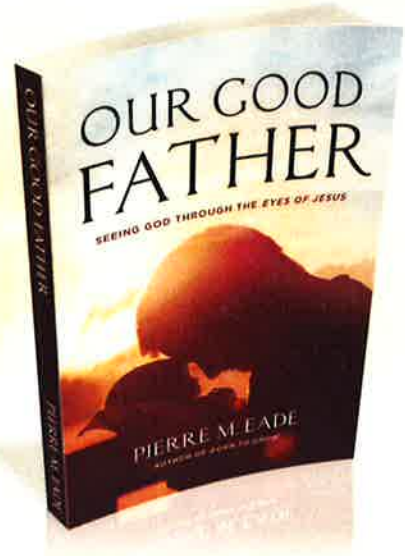
So for example, if your father was an authoritarian, you may see God in the same light. If your father was distant, you may see God the same way. If your father was absent, you may see God as far from reach or even non-existent.

Once we recognize the way our paternal father has possibly impacted our view of God, the next step is to challenge our way of thinking about God through the study of Jesus' description of the Father. To help you on that journey, pick up a copy of [Our Good Father](#) today!

NOTE TO GROUP LEADERS: One of the questions at the end of Chapter One is "Which view of God are you most likely to embrace today Authoritarian, Benevolent, Critical, Distant or Non-Existent? This survey can be a good additional resource for your group to take before discussing this chapter together. **Additional Group Question:** What similarities do you find between your perception of your paternal father and your view (previous or current) of God?"

OUR GOOD FATHER

WHO KNOWS GOD BETTER THAN JESUS?



Jesus said, "No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son". He went on to give one exception, "and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

If you desire a revelation of God the Father, you only have one thing you need to do, listen to his son Jesus. *Our Good Father* takes the words of Jesus to bring a fresh understanding to the person of God the Father. Through the use of personal stories, analogies and humor, *Our Good Father* uses the words of Jesus to paint a picture of the true nature of God.

WHAT CHRISTIAN LEADERS ARE SAYING ABOUT *OUR GOOD FATHER*

Our Good Father is an essential guide that reintroduces God the Father with comfort and clarity.

—PASTOR TOM EBERSOLE

If you are a man with a father wound, this book will help you find healing in the Father's love.

—DAVE ARMSTRONG, MAN IN THE MIRROR

As an educator, I grade this book a 100 out of 100!

—DR. LEE SIMMONS

I read few books that I find so beneficial not only to myself but also to fellow Christians as well as unchurched friends.

—JOEL FISCUS, VP CHRISTIAN SERVICE BRIGADE



Pierre Eade is a pastor, author, speaker and coach whose mission is to inspire, educate and empower people to grow. His first book, *Born to Grow*, is an entertaining exploration of the four pathways of growth God has for your life.

You can learn more about Pierre, read his blog, join his mailing list, connect with him on social media and contact him for speaking, writing or coaching by visiting: www.pierreade.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES ON THIS BOOK,
PLEASE VISIT: WWW.OURGOODFATHER.COM