

Holding Onto My Father's Hands

MEETING MY NEED FOR SECURITY

Marvin Brubacher // May 14-15, 2016

WARMING UP

1. Unlike other parts of the body that are judged on the basis of their beauty, hands are almost solely evaluated on the basis of their productivity. What are some of the key everyday functions that our hands perform?

DIGGING IN

2. What is an “anthropomorphism”? Why do you suppose God reveals himself in this way? How does this relate to theologian J.I. Packer’s comment that “we need to know about God to really know God”?
3. *The Father’s strong hands reveal his mighty power in the world.*
 - What are some of the ways God demonstrates the strength of his hands? Think through various biblical and contemporary illustrations.
 - When we consider the strength of our Father, we are exhorted to “humble ourselves” (1 Peter 5:6). Why is this an appropriate response? What does this look like in real life? Why do we struggle to do this?
4. *The Father’s severe hands reveal his desire for genuine relationship.*
 - When our lives are marked by pride rather than humility, we may experience God’s severe hands. Look at a few examples from the Scriptures where this was true for nations (Exodus 9:3; Judges 2:15; 1 Samuel 5:9, 11; Isaiah 40:2) and individuals (Ruth 1:13; Psalm 32:4).
 - Can you recount a time when you experienced the Father’s severe hands? What happened? How did you respond? What did you learn? How does the testimony of Hebrews 12:5-11 reveal God’s heart in the midst of the discipline?
5. *The Father’s secure hands reveal his loving providence.*
 - Have you ever struggled with the assurance that you are one of the Father’s children? How so? How do Jesus’ words in John 10:28-30 help? What other passages helped you resolve this important issue?
 - What personal need(s) for safety and security are you facing today in our turbulent and troubled world? What does Psalm 145:14-16 say about this? How are God’s provision and his strength interrelated?

BREAKING OUT

6. What is the your most significant takeaway from the big idea that God holds your hand (not vice versa)? What is your obvious step of application? How can your small group members help you with this?