What are some common traits of good fathers? How does a relationship with a good father figure help us understand what Jesus meant by calling God our Heavenly Father?

Dig In!

Read Genesis 1:1; Psalm 19:1-2; Isaiah 46:9; John 4:24; Romans 1:19-20; Hebrews 11:6

- What do the above passages reveal about God? How do they set an important foundation for the way we think about God? What happens if we believe the wrong things about God?
- What are some other ways the bible describes God? (He is a king, a Lion, a consuming fire, etc.) What effect have these descriptions had on the way you approach him?

Read Matthew 23:9; Luke 15:18-23, Luke 15:28-32

- The bible reveals God with masculine terminology so that we can think of him rightly as our Heavenly Father. For instance, what do we learn from the example of the father in the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15.
- What are some reasons people become uncomfortable with the relationship they have with their Heavenly Father? (Luke 15:28-32)
- How does Jesus want us to be comforted by revealing God to us our Father in Heaven? (Matthew 12:50; John 6:32, John 16:27)

Read Hebrews 12:5-11

- If God were to let you pursue all of your desires without any interference or correction, what might your life be like today?
- Why doesn't God allow us to do whatever we please? What amazing blessing does obedience to Jesus result in? (John 14:21)

Read Matthew 6:9, Matthew 7:11

• What do your prayers indicate about your willingness to submit specific areas of your life to God's will? Why would you be holding anything back from God?

Break Out!

How is God different from and better than your earthly father? Have you let your experience with an earthly father figure taint your relationship with your Heavenly Father? How will you begin to build a proper perspective of God now that you see he's is different from your dad?