



June 15 & 16, 2024
Message: Pastor Doyle Jackson
Study: Pastor Doug McCoy

Summer Current: Father's Love

I. Reminders

- **This Weekend** – worship services **Saturday @ 5pm** and **Sunday @ 9:30 am & 11am**. You can listen in your car by tuning your radio to 95.3 FM or watch the livestream on Facebook or thechurchnextdoor.org. **Bring a neighbor! Invite a friend!**
- **Radio Show** – the **Your Next Step** radio show continues **Mon-Fri at 10:30am on The Word 880 AM and 104.5 FM**. The podcast is also available on our website doylejackson.com as well as all podcasting services.
- **Upcoming Events** – 1) Special Guest Becket Cook - June 22 & 23 (Three Talks), 2) Next Door Neighbor Kindness Weekend - July 6-7, 3) Pray First Weekend - July 13-14, 4) Men's Event with WRFD - July 20, 5) Our Prayer 5K - August 24

II. Ice Breaker Questions

1. If you could instantly speak any language in the world past or present, which language would you choose? Why?
2. What Olympic sport would you like to compete in? How do you think you would do? Be honest!

III. Bible Study

Read **John 1:6-14** (NIV)

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. **8** He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. **11** He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. **12** Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— **13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.**

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

1. Why do you think God chooses to reveal Himself to us in verse 14 and other Bible verses as “Father”? Why do you think He risks doing this when so many people have had bad experiences with earthly fathers? What terms in this passage show us that God is the ultimate “good Father”?
2. What does it mean to be “born of God” (hint: consider the full context of verse 13)? How are you encouraged by knowing that God “wills” you to be His child?

Read **Genesis 17:1-8** (NIV)

God's covenant with Abram... **1** When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. **2** Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

3 Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, **4** "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. **5** No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. **6 I will make you very fruitful**; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. **7** I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. **8** The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."

3. This is after the Hagar incident but before the birth of Isaac. How does that context contribute to God's call to "walk before me faithfully and be blameless"? How can we return to faithfulness/blamelessness after we have taken things into our own hands and made a mess like Abraham did? Why does God allow us to do so?
4. What is God's promise to Abraham (see verse 6)? Was that promise kept? What promises is God making us today? How can we put our trust in this promise?

Read **Romans 9:1-3** (NIV)

God is the one who Chooses... **6** It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. **7** Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." **8** In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. **9** For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."

10 Not only that, but Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. **11** Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: **12** not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger." **13** Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

14 What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! **15** For he says to Moses,

"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

16 It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. **17** For Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

5. What is the difference between "children by physical descent" and "children of the promise"? Which are we (hint: see Galatians 4:28-31)?
6. "God's mercy" raises people us to positions of service. How has God raised you up to be a spiritual father or parent to the people around you? How do you feel about this "mercy"? How will you live out that role this week?