

Concept of God

Our perspective of Father God is usually an assimilation of our earthly Father and Mother. We typically approach God through a smeared lens of lie-based beliefs based on our parents. When we view God through our parent's fingerprints, it is hard to know when our perspective of God is distorted. It is like hearing your own accent—you can't. The good news is that not everything we believe about God is a lie. Locating and labeling our lies about God initiates the healing process.

Describe how you have FELT and FEEL about your relationship with God.

How do you view God on a FEELING level—especially on a terrible day?

Check the one statement for each line that FEELS most true—especially on a bad day.

Then go back and rate each (1 = rarely / 5 usually), indicating to what extent you feel that way.

God is...		The Truth About God
1. _____ Distant or	_____ Close	Psalm 139:8-10
2. _____ Unapproachable or	_____ Approachable	Hebrews 4:16 Jeremiah 33:3
3. _____ Hard to talk to or	_____ Easy to talk to	Isaiah 40:11 John 10:27
4. _____ Harsh/cold/alooof or	_____ Gentle/warm	Matthew 11:28-30
5. _____ Touchy/irritable or	_____ Patient/kind	1 Corinthians 13:4-7
6. _____ Confident in me or	_____ Confident in Himself only	2 Corinthians 3:5
7. _____ Treats others better than me or	_____ Has no favorites	Acts 10:34-35 Matthew 10:30
8. _____ Doesn't listen to me or	_____ Listens to me	Psalm 34:15, 40:1
9. _____ Concerned with my behavior or	_____ Interested in me	Zephaniah 3:17 Hebrews 4:15
10. _____ Upset/disappointed in me or	_____ Delighted/pleased with me	Psalm 18:19
11. _____ Too busy to bother with me or	_____ Vitally interested in my life	Matthew 10:30
12. _____ Detached and I am unimportant or	_____ Connected and I am important	Isaiah 49:1 Romans 8:16
13. _____ Doesn't care how I feel or	_____ Cares about my feelings	John 11:35 1 Peter 5:7
14. _____ Looks for faults/tears me down or	_____ Builds up/encourages me	Acts 20:32
15. _____ Abandons me when I need Him or	_____ There for me	Psalm 46:1 Romans 8:35-39
16. _____ Can't depend on Him or	_____ Can depend on Him	Psalm 138:8 2 Timothy 2:13
17. _____ Slow to forgive me or	_____ I am already forgiven	1 John 2:1-2
18. _____ Reminds me of my past or	_____ Doesn't keep record	Jeremiah 31:34
19. _____ Angry when He corrects me or	_____ Loving in correction	Psalm 86:15 Psalm 103:2-5
20. _____ Frustrated at my mistakes or	_____ Allows me to learn	2 Corinthians 12:9 Psalm 103:13-14

Quickly, draw a simple picture of God. Include yourself in the picture.

Using the last page of this handout or your Bible, look up the Scriptural truth for each item you marked on the left-hand side.

Then, write the lie(s) and the truth in the space provided on the lines in the prayer on page two.

How Do We Develop a Distorted View of God?

1. You derive your concept of God from your parents, most significantly from your Father.
2. You inherit your parent's or grandparent's misconceptions about God.
3. You concluded things about God based on experiences and events you witnessed.
4. You derive your image of God from your self-image.

Why is the Correct Concept of God Important? (Psalms 13:1-6)

1. If your concept of God is not a Biblical view of God's character, it is a lie.
2. What you believe about God determines how you interact with God.
3. The Israelites could not enter the Promised Land because of unbelief. (Hebrews 3:19)
4. Jesus touched their eyes, saying, "It shall be done to you according to your faith." (Matthew 9:29)

Correct a Distorted Image of God

1. Call lies what they are—lies!
2. Write all of the lies that you believe about God in the first set of lines below.
3. Write the truth about God, as revealed in His Word, on the second set of lines below.

Prayer

Father God,

I now understand that I have a distorted view of you and your character. I felt and thought of You as

I confess that what I believed about You is not true. I now believe your Word about Yourself, that you are (Scriptural truth about God) _____

Jesus, take all the pain and confusion from these lies unto Yourself and exchange them for Your peace. Holy Spirit, I invite you to replace the lies with the truth and show me the Father. Thank You for Your abounding grace, which destroys every lying speculation and lofty thought that contradicts the character of God. Amen.

Discover the Truth about God

(These verses corresponded to the first page of this handout.)

1. **Distant: Psalm 139:8-10** Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, Even there Your hand will lead me.
2. **Unapproachable: Hebrews 4:16** Draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. **Jeremiah 33:3** Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things you do not know.
3. **Hard to talk to: Isaiah 40:11** Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, in His arm He will gather the lambs and carry *them* in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes. **John 10:27** My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.
4. **Harsh/cold/aloof: Matthew 11:28-29** Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.
5. **Touch/irritable: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7** Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
6. **Lack of confidence in me: 2 Corinthians 3:5** Not that we are adequate in ourselves, but our adequacy is from God.
7. **Treats others better than me: Acts 10:34-35** Peter said: "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality." **Isaiah 45:3-4** I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden wealth of secret places; so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name. I have also called you by your name; I have given you a title of honor though you have not known Me.
8. **Doesn't listen to me: Psalm 34:15** The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous And His ears are open to their cry. **Psalms 40:1** I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined to me and heard my cry.
9. **Concern with my behavior: Zephaniah 3:17** The LORD your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy. **Hebrews 4:15** For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses.
10. **Upset/disappointed with me: Psalm 18:19** He rescued me, because He delighted in me.
11. **Too busy to bother with me: Matthew 10:30** "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.
12. **Detached and unimportant: Isaiah 49:16** I have inscribed you on the palms *of My hands*; your walls are continually before Me. **Romans 8:16** The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.
13. **Doesn't care how I feel: John 11:35** Jesus wept. **1 Peter 5:7** He cares for you.
14. **Looks for faults/tears me down: Acts 20:32** I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.
15. **Abandons me when I need him: Psalm 46:1** God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. **Romans 8:38-39** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God.
16. **Can't depend on Him: Psalm 138:8** The LORD will accomplish what concerns me; Your lovingkindness, is everlasting. **2 Timothy 2:13** If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.
17. **Slow to forgive me: 1 John 2:1-2** If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.
18. **Reminds me of my past: Jeremiah 31:34** Know the Lord, "for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."
19. **Angry when He corrects me: Psalm 86:15** You are a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth. **Psalm 103:2-5** Bless the LORD, Who pardons all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with loving-kindness and compassion; Who satisfies your years with good things, *So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle.
20. **Frustrated with my mistakes: 2 Corinthians 12:9** And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." **Psalm 103:13-14** Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him. For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust.

Prayer Notes

A Renewed You

Now that you have seen the truth and prayed with God, draw another picture of God and yourself.

Quickly, draw a simple picture of God. Include yourself in the picture.

