

## EVERLASTING FATHER

Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah 1:16-18

John 14:1-11

### Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What do you think it means to be a father? What characteristics would you want a father to have?
- Why do you think Isaiah says the Messiah is an “everlasting father” not just a “father”?

When you hear the famous chorus in Handel's Messiah based on Isaiah 9:6, who comes to mind when you hear the title “Everlasting Father”? Do you nod and smile along, because yes, God the Father IS an everlasting father? Or do you question why a prophecy about the Messiah, Jesus Christ the SON of God, refers to him as Father? Can Jesus Christ be the “Everlasting Father”? How should we understand Isaiah's attribution of the title to the Messiah? Studying scripture can help us better understand what this title meant to its original audience and why it really is an appropriate title for Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

**Listen:** [\*Everlasting Father\*](#)

### Reflection

After listening, consider:

- What biblical stories can you think of that exemplify Jesus' fatherly nature?
- In many contexts, a fatherless child is vulnerable to all sorts of threats. Can you identify with that level of vulnerability? What does it mean to you then, that Jesus the Messiah is a father to the fatherless?
- In segment 2, hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee describe that in Isaiah's day a father represented provision and protection. Having an everlasting father means we are always provided for and will never be vulnerable again. How might you describe this to someone in today's context and terms?
- How have you experienced God's provision and presence in the day-to-day, ordinariness of life? What does it mean to you that it is possible to know God so intimately through Jesus?

### Related Passages

- **Isaiah 63:16**
- **Isaiah 64:8**
- **Psalms 103:13-18**

## Conclusion

Read and ponder this quote from David Sunday's article "[How Can Jesus Be Our Everlasting Father](https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/everlasting-father)"?:

Jesus, your Everlasting Father, came down at Christmas into a broken and sinful world to fill our hearts with heaven's love, and to teach us how to love one another. He came to make sons and daughters out of his enemies. This is the Father's gift to us at Christmas.

Reflect on how you see the presence of this gift in your life and consider how you might share this gift in the ordinary, day-to-day events of your life over the next week. Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for this gift and the Messiah, our Everlasting Father.

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