



# Our Father's Eyes: Seeing Our Children as He Sees Us

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**Today's Focus:** Knowing who our children really are is key to loving them as they are. Using Jesus as our model, today we will explore ways we can better understand our children so that we may love them more effectively.

## I. Our Challenge: Getting to Know Them ... and How to Love Them Well

- A. The "He or she is so different ..." dilemma
- B. Cautionary note: If you ever think for moment your children are all just alike, look again!
- C. Question: How well do you know your children, and how does that affect how you love them?

## II. Our Model: Jesus

- A. Jesus related to each person as a unique individual.
- B. Jesus offered each unconditional, redemptive love.
- C. Jesus cared for the sinner while confronting the sin.
- D. Jesus met each person where he or she was and grew that person into all he or she could be.

## III. Our Uniquely Designed Children: How Are They Different?

- A. In gender
- B. In birth order
- C. In personality/temperament
- D. In interests





- E. In love languages
- F. In inner speeds
- G. In learning styles

#### IV. Our Method: How Does This Affect Our Parenting?

- A. We need to know our children for who they really are.
  - 1. Make time for meaningful interaction.
  - 2. Give them focused attention.
  - 3. Watch them intently as they develop.
  - 4. Listen to what others observe about them.
  - 5. Develop the “Atticus Finch” perspective.
  - 6. Climb into their skin and walk around in it.
  
- B. We need to love our children as they are.
  - 1. They may not be “normal like you.”
  - 2. Some children are harder to like than others.
  - 3. Don’t miss who they really are because you’re busy bemoaning who they aren’t.
  - 4. Never compare: There are no cookie-cutter kids!
  - 5. Value each child’s uniqueness: Focus on what you can affirm in her—let her know you like who she is!
  
- C. We need to love them with God’s kind of love (unconditional and redemptive).
  - 1. “I love you no matter what.”
  - 2. “This behavior has to change ... but I’ll always love you.”



## Discussion Questions

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**Report Time:** As you reflect on our unit on marriage, what progress have you observed in recent days in your relationship with your husband? What difference could seeing him with our Father's eyes make?

1. In the video teaching today we looked at Jesus' interactions with various people. What struck you with fresh force? How could His model specifically impact your parenting?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What are the biggest differences you see between your children? (Limit your answer to one or two areas.) How do the differences affect how you parent each one? If you have only one child, what differences between you and your child might impact your parenting?



3. How well do you feel you know your children? Look back at the notes you took during the video teaching today. What area would you like to focus on this week in order to really get to know your child better?

4. Share ways in which you've learned to value and appreciate your child for who he or she is (as opposed to what you wish he were or hope she'll become). Are there areas in which you struggle to do this? What suggestions from this morning might help you?

5. Conclude with a time of prayer (silent, corporate, or leader-led) asking God to help you see each of your children with His eyes.

**For Next Week:** During the week look for ways in which you can come to know each of your children better. Come ready to share one quality you've newly discovered or newly come to appreciate about each child. Try to listen to Devotion 7 on the CD. There you will find additional encouragement to see each of your children through our Father's eyes.



## Reflections 7

### Our Father's Eyes: Seeing Our Children as He Sees Us

**Remember how Jesus related to each person:**

- Individually, as a unique creation of God
- With unconditional, redemptive love
- Caring for the sinner even while confronting the sin
- Eager to grow them into all they were meant to be

**Become a student of your children. How well do you know their differences:**

- Personality?
- Interests?
- Love languages?
- Inner speeds?
- Learning styles?

**Now ask God to give you:**

- His eyes on this child and His kind of love for this child
- One newly discovered quality you can affirm and celebrate in each child

God designs only originals—no copies!

“God knows us best and loves us anyway. Let us likewise love our children.”

**Read and Grow:** As we prepare to look at the “Peter Potential” in our children (and us), read about:

1. Peter, before and after: Matthew 16:13-23; Luke 22:31-32, 54-62; John 21:15-22; Acts 4:8-19
2. Moses, the reluctant hero: Exodus 3:1—4:17
3. Paul-in-process: Philippians 1:6; 3:12-14

**For Next Week:** Be ready to share one quality you've newly discovered or come to appreciate about each of your children this week. Listen to Devotion 7.

