Diving Deeper into Discipleship

August 1, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

More: Your God is Too Small—Parental Residue

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Think about your experience of growing up with your parents and how it might have influenced your views of God. What positive things are you thankful for? What negative things might you need to set aside?
- Is your ongoing pathway of repentance paved primarily with your own guilt and fear, or with God's kindness and mercy?
- Allow yourself to be seen by God, pursued by God, and embraced by God... even if you don't feel you deserve it.
- Pray for someone you know who might be far from God, that they might experience a hunger that redirects them to the arms of the Father.

\Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Isaiah 64:8** | What does this verse teach us about one aspect of our relationship with God as our Father?
- **Psalm 103** | In this Psalm, how do the themes of God's justice, anger, compassion and mercy work together and compliment each other?
- **Matthew 23:37** | What does this "parental" metaphor from Jesus teach us about God's care and concern for his people?

Self-Care Discipline

August Discipline: Celebration

"Singing & Worship" | from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg 190, 197

- Celebration is at the heart of the way of Christ. He entered the world on a high note of jubilation: "I bring you good news of a great joy," cried the angel, "which shall come to all the people" (Luke 2:10). He left the world bequeathing His joy to the disciples: "These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11).
- One way to practice celebration is through singing, dancing, and shouting. Because of the goodness of God, the heart breaks forth into psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Worship, praise, adoration flow from the inner chambers. In Psalm 150 we see the celebration of the people of God with trumpet and lute and harp, with timbrel and dance, with strings and pipe and loud clashing cymbals.
- The next time you enter a space of worship, take a moment beforehand to center yourself. Ask God to remind you of the joy that you have because you have received the good news of Jesus!

Notes