

Leader:

God, you have chosen to come down to our level by describing yourself as a Father. When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he taught us to address you as Father. So this morning when our culture celebrates Fathers, we come to you to ask for your blessing on the men in our families and in our community.

Jesus, you honoured your earthly father and your heavenly father. You understood that to be a man is to be in relationship of trust and love with others.

Lord, to be human is to be made in your image. May we encourage all of the men in our lives to be connected to you by the Holy Spirit so that your intentions for them will become reality as they worship you.

This morning our thoughts and our hearts go to men:

Who became fathers for the first time, or who welcomed another child into their family.

Congregation:

God give them courage to meet the challenge!

Leader:

Who experienced the loss of a child through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or a runaway.

Congregation:

Holy Spirit allow them to grieve without restraint.

Leader:

Who throw a ball, share a story, fix a toy, or wrestle on the floor with a young son or daughter.

Congregation:

Lord may they imprint your love on the children you have given them.

Leader:

Who feel abandoned by you on the difficult path of infertility.

Congregation:

May our words be life-giving and our prayers be continual. Creator, answer the cries of your people!

Leader:

Who find it easy to connect with, and to encourage their children.

Congregation:

Jesus, be the center of our family life.

Leader:

Who are estranged from their children.

Congregation:

Father, bring your radical forgiveness into our lives.

Leader:

Whose own Fathers have recently left this life.

Congregation:

Lord, may your people support them in love.

Leader:

Who have been abused by fathers or others they respected.

Congregation:

May the healing power of the Holy Spirit repair every shattered heart.

Leader:

Who are raising teens and young adults.

Congregation:

May wisdom flow from your presence in their lives.

Leader:

Who are single and long for their own family, or who are content in singleness.

Congregation:

Father, may you be the center of their lives throughout every season.

Leader:

For spiritual fathers and grandfathers who continue to raise up spiritual children.

Congregation:

Holy Spirit, fill us with the faith to follow their example.

Leader:

For every man, young man, and boy who desires to live in your light: may they find it in knowing you, Jesus. May all the potential of your image in them become a reality as they work, play, love, and serve in the world you created. May they be strong for the truth, yet tender in extending grace to all. Amen.