BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

4

THE FATHER AND HIS ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON

LESSON 4

The Father and His Only-Begotten Son

How do the Father and His divine Son reveal love, life, and salvation?

KEY VERSE

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

— John 3:16

Introduction

The Bible reveals the Father through His character, His works, and above all His gift of His only-begotten Son. It also presents Jesus Christ as truly the Son of the Father and fully divine: the eternal Word, God manifested in the flesh, Creator, Saviour, King, and High Priest. This study follows Scripture as it shows the Father and His Son working together in creation and redemption, and invites us to respond with faith, love, worship, and willing obedience.

Question-and-Bible-Answer Study

1. **What one word expresses the character of God?**

   "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."
   — 1 John 4:8

2. **What do the Scriptures say about the Father's righteousness and holiness?**

   "The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works."
   — Psalm 145:17

   "He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he."
   — Deuteronomy 32:4

3. How did the Lord describe His own character when He proclaimed His name to Moses?

"And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation."

— Exodus 34:6-7

Study note. God's mercy does not set aside His righteousness. The same proclamation joins compassion, patience, goodness, truth, forgiveness, and justice in one perfect character.

4. What does Scripture say about the Father's compassion, faithfulness, strength, and wisdom?

"But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth."

— Psalm 86:15

"Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;"

— Deuteronomy 7:9

"Behold, God is mighty, and despiseth not any: he is mighty in strength and wisdom."

— Job 36:5

5. How widely do the Father's goodness and impartial care extend?

"The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works."

— Psalm 145:9

"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."
— Acts 10:34-35

6. How has the Father most clearly manifested His love toward humanity?

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
— John 3:16

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."
— 1 John 4:9

7. Into what relationship does the Father's love bring those who receive it?

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."
— 1 John 3:1

"And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."
— Romans 5:5

8. How enduring and secure is the Father's love in Christ?

"The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."
— Jeremiah 31:3

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

— Romans 8:38-39

9. How did the Father identify Jesus while He was on earth?

"And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

— Matthew 3:17

10. Who was the Word in the beginning, and what was His relationship to God?

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

— John 1:1

Study note. Scripture distinguishes the Word who was "with God" and at the same time declares that "the Word was God." The Son's true relationship to the Father does not diminish His full deity.

11. How does the Father address His Son?

"But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom."

— Hebrews 1:8

12. What does Scripture reveal about the Son's existence before His life on earth?

"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."

— John 17:5

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."
— Micah 5:2

13. What fullness and unity with the Father belong to Christ?

"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."
— Colossians 2:9

"I and my Father are one."
— John 10:30

14. What divine names and titles are given to Jesus Christ?

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."
— Luke 2:11

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."
— Revelation 22:13

15. What divine attributes are found in the Son?

"He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities."
— Isaiah 53:11

"Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."
— Acts 2:27

"In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."
— Colossians 2:3

16. How do the Father and His Son work in creation and in sustaining all things?

"But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."
— 1 Corinthians 8:6

"Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;"
— Hebrews 1:2-3

Study note. Scripture presents the Father as the source—"of whom are all things"—and Jesus Christ as the divine Son "by whom are all things." Creation and its continuing support are works in which the Father acts through His Son.

17. How did the divine Son enter the human family?

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."
— John 1:14

"And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."
— Luke 1:35

18. Why did the Son partake of human nature?

"Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."
— Hebrews 2:17

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."
— Hebrews 4:15

19. Upon what does the Father's saving work for sinners rest, and how did the Son respond?

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"
— Ephesians 2:4-5

"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."
— Ephesians 5:2

20. What authority and works belong to the Son?

"The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;"
— Matthew 13:41

"And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."
— Matthew 24:31

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."
— Matthew 16:27

Study note. Jesus speaks of the angels as His angels, the kingdom as His kingdom, and the elect as His elect. He comes in His Father's glory and gives the final reward. These are not the works of a merely created messenger.

21. What honor does the Father intend all people to give His Son?

"And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him."
— Hebrews 1:6

"That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him."
— John 5:23

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."
— Revelation 1:5-6

Study note. Honoring the Son does not compete with honoring the Father. The Father Himself calls for the Son to be honored even as the Father is honored, and redeemed people ascribe glory to Christ for His saving love.

22. How are faith, love, and obedience joined in our response to the Father and His Son?

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession."
— Hebrews 4:14

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."
— John 14:21

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."
— 1 John 4:11

Lesson Summary

- The Father is love, and His character perfectly joins righteousness, holiness, mercy, truth, faithfulness, wisdom, and justice.
- The Father manifested His love by giving and sending His only-begotten Son so that believers might receive everlasting life.
- Jesus Christ is the Father's beloved Son, the eternal Word who was with God and was God.
- The Father calls His Son God; all the fullness of deity dwells in Christ, and divine names, attributes, authority, and works belong to Him.
- The Father is the source of all things and created and sustains all things through His Son.
- The divine Son became flesh, shared our humanity without sin, gave Himself for us, and serves as our merciful and faithful High Priest.
- God calls us to believe in His Son, honor Him even as we honor the Father, receive Their love, walk in love toward others, and obey from the heart.

Personal Response

Consider these questions quietly and answer them in your own words:

1. Which part of the Father's character gives you the greatest confidence to trust Him?
2. How does knowing that Jesus is both the only-begotten Son of the Father and fully divine deepen your understanding of God's gift for you?
3. What response of faith, love, worship, or obedience would you like to offer the Father and His Son?