

ABBA*

In union with Christ, we can call God Himself our “Abba,” the personal fatherly name.

SCRIPTURE†	MUSIC‡
<p>Psalm 103 2 Samuel 7 Matthew 7:7-12 John 14 Mark 14:35-36; Romans 8:14-17 2 Corinthians 1:3-7; 6:18 Galatians 4:4-7 Ephesians 1 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17</p>	<p>Almighty Father (arr. Harlan) TTBB Children of the Heavenly Father Chosen as His Children Day by Day Father, I Adore You God Is So Good God Leads Us Along How Deep the Father’s Love for Us I Will Never Fail You (Berry) SATB Nearer, Still Nearer The Love of God This Is My Father’s World You Are Always Good</p>



NORTHWEST VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

nwvbc.org | 623-581-3115 | 4030 W Yorkshire Drive, Glendale, AZ 85308

* Theme corresponds well to **Father’s Day**.

† Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

‡ Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

A CHILD, NOT A SLAVE

Our relationship with God as our “Abba” is contrasted with being a slave. The prodigal son is an example: he rejected his father and all of the privileges of sonship. He even recognized that when he was living as he pleased, he was not as well off as the slaves in his father’s house. Yet when he returned, he was received again by his father as a beloved son.

JESUS CALLED THE FATHER “ABBA”

Mark 14:36; Romans 8:14-17 | *In His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus called the Father “Abba.” Our union with Christ allows us to call God “Abba” as well. Romans 8 says that we are linked with Jesus in suffering, and in that same context, Paul tells us to call out to God as our Abba. Comfort, direction, and surrender are all wrapped up in coming to God the Father and yielding to His will. In our sorrow/suffering, He invites us to enter into the tenderness of fellowship with Him as our Abba.*

Imagine again the familiar scene: the Garden of Gethsemane. It is dark. Jesus has left his disciples to “watch and pray,” knowing they will fall asleep soon after He steps away. On the eve of His crucifixion, His soul is in anguish. He cries out in prayer to God, His Father, “Abba, Father! All things are possible for You; take away this cup from me. Nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.”

Abba, Father. This word appears in Mark’s account of Gethsemane. It was probably one of the first words Jesus ever said on this earth. It was toddler talk—like “daddy,” or even as my daughter Charlotte first said, “dada.” Charlotte has now moved beyond “dada” to the much more grown-up “Daddy.” She’s two, after all. This Father’s Day, I’m now twice the Dad I was last year; little Anna can’t say a word yet—she’s nine days old. When she starts talking, we’ll hear her “dada,” too—her “abba.”

Whenever Jesus spoke it first, He is now in the Garden using that personal toddler word to address His heavenly Dad in the middle of great torment! Do you hear His childlike trust, too, though? He prays to His Abba to remove the suffering, but follows up quickly with “not what *I* want, but what *You* want.”

He did drink that cup the next day. He did go to the cross. He took all the suffering he had prayed to avoid. He did it so we could share His Abba. Romans 8 tells us that because of Christ’s death, we receive the Holy Spirit of adoption and cry, like Jesus, “Abba, Father!” We are “heirs of God” and “joint heirs with Christ.” And when we

suffer, like He did, we can cry out with toddler trust and honesty, “Abba! Father!” What a privilege! What a gift! Worship your Abba today for this personal relationship.

SPECIAL TRUST

Show a photograph (worship theme slide) that illustrates the trust of a small child with his or her father. When we see these kind of photographs or when we observe children with their fathers, maybe we wish that we could go back and be little children with our dads again. There is a special kind of trust inherent to that relationship. The precious truth from God’s Word is that we can have that kind of relationship – with a perfect Father! The term “Abba” speaks of trust: innocent, childlike, unguarded trust. We will never outgrow that kind of relationship with God. Believers are always His little children.

ULTIMATE FATHER

Talk about the “Ultimate Father.” All you could ever want in a father, you already have in God. Even the best fathers cannot always keep their promises, cannot be there all the time, and eventually will die. We have everything we need in God, “the Ultimate Father.”