

**Study Questions for the June 19, 2022 Sermon:
“The Soft-hearted Father”
Psalm 103:11-14**

Call to Worship: 1 John 3:1-3

1. According to the first verse, why do our unbelieving friends misunderstand us?
2. Based on the teaching of this verse, what might be the best strategy to make ourselves understood?
3. Verse 1 states that our relationship with God is as adopted children. In other verses, the church is collectively referred to as the bride of Christ. Still another verse says that believers are brothers and sisters to Christ, and in yet another, Jesus called his followers “friends”.
 - a. What exactly is our relationship to God?
 - b. Does question 3 list all the ways that believers relate to God? State verses that describe other relationships between and God.
4. What, according to verse 3, is one of the benefits of hoping in Jesus?
5. How might hoping in Jesus purify us?

Sermon: Read Psalm 103:11-14

1. Early in the sermon, Pastor Paul said that if we make God primary in our lives, other things tend to sort themselves out. This is echoed in Matthew 6: 31- 33.
 - a. Can you think of a Bible story where circumstances “sorted themselves out” after people focused on glorifying God?
 - b. Have you had a personal experience where circumstances “sorted themselves out” after you focused on glorifying God?

2. Can you think of a Bible story where *Hesed*, the steadfast love of God referred to in verse 11, sustained a person when they were experiencing rejection from people?
3. You deal with an incompetent auto mechanic and you have to take many time-consuming steps to get a refund.
 - a. What would it look like to forgive him?
 - b. Would forgiving him mean that you bring your car back to him?
 - c. Is there any difference between God's forgiveness and a believer's forgiveness?
4. Pastor Paul described compassion as understanding someone else's condition.
 - a. How has God demonstrated compassion for humanity?
 - b. Share an experience in which another person treated you compassionately.
 - c. What worldly values militate against compassion?
5. Verse 14 states that God *knows our frame* (how we are formed).
 - a. In what ways are we like dust, as stated in this verse?
 - b. If we are frail and weak, isn't it the fault of our Designer?
6. Pastor Paul asked us to pray about what we need to do to get closer to God, as individuals and as a congregation. If you did this, share your insights.