The Father's Heart
Galatians 1:3-5

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Essentials Series

Reflect	**Realize**	**Respond**
Outline: Recap	Points to Ponder	Questions to draw out understanding.

REFLECT

The idea of God the Father for many of us comes with many emotions. For some, the idea of God being a father brings feelings of warmth, safety, and support, while for others, feelings of vulnerability and neglect. When we take time and consider the character of God the Father in the scriptures, we find a more accurate image, one of kindness, forethought, and forgiveness. Let's glean from and be comforted by the word of God as we consider The Father's Heart.

REALIZE

1. Your Heavenly Father is Kind.

- **Scripture Reference;** Galatians 1:3-5; Galatians 1:4
- **Questions for Reflection**
  - Think about your relationship with your earthly father. What was he like? What characteristics has he passed on to you? How do those qualities line up with your Heavenly Father as you know Him?

2. Your Heavenly Father is Knowledgeable.

- **Scripture Reference;** Galatians 1:3-5; Galatians 1:5
- **Questions for Reflection**
  - Fathers typically pass on knowledge to their kids, but this is not the case for many people. What is one aspect of God's character you want to see realized in your own life? Why?

3. Your Heavenly Father is King.

- **Scripture Reference;** Galatians 1:3-5
- **Questions for Reflection**
  - Good kings rule and reign with great regard for their subjects. How can we know that God the Father is good and that He loves us?

4. God is the Father who always has time for you.

- **Scripture Reference;** Galatians 1:3-5
- **Questions for Reflection**
  - Good kings rule and reign with great regard for their subjects. How can we know that God the Father is good and that He loves us?

Optional Follow-up Questions:

- What makes you say that?
- How do you feel about that?
- How would you explain your answer to a non-Christian friend or neighbor?
- Why did God design it to work that way? Why not just do (whatever else) instead?
- What would you say to someone who disagrees with that?
- Why do we really have to do it like that? Why can't we just go (some other route) instead?