

# GOD'S LOVE LANGUAGE

(Matthew 6:9; Luke 11:2)

## OBSERVATIONS

The “Name” of God was crucial for the Hebrews/Jewish people in Old Testament times. When God called Moses to confront the Pharaoh of Egypt to release the Hebrews from slavery, Moses asked for the Lord’s name (Exodus 3:13-15). Later the third commandment warned of not speaking God’s Name in a wrongful manner (Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 5:11).

The Bible offers numerous symbols and names reflecting God’s attributes (e.g. Isaiah 42:13-14), but among the names of God, two stand out: Elohim and Yahweh. *Elohim* emphasizes God’s majesty and holiness. *Yahweh* emphasizes God’s intimacy and care. Both Names are reflected in the two accounts of creation – in Genesis 1:1-2:3 the Name “Elohim” is used as God majestically rolls out all creation; in Genesis 2:4-25 the Name “Yahweh” is used as God gets down in the mud with Adam and Eve, gently breathing life into them (compare John 20:22). Jesus’ use of the words “holy” and “Father” hold these Names together. Holy=Elohim; Father=Yahweh.

The name “Father” for God is also associated with releasing people from slavery (Exodus 4:22-23; Hosea 11:1). Jesus came to extend the Father’s freedom plan for the whole world, by forgiving sins and bringing fullness of life. When we pray “Our Father, holy is your Name”, we are aligning ourselves with Jesus’ priorities.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stands out for you in the phrase “our Father, holy is your Name”?
2. God is both majestic and mysterious (Holy) and intimate and nurturing (Father). Which quality of God resonates more prominently with you? How might you cultivate a deeper connection with the fullness of God in your life of prayer?
3. In what ways has Christ set you free? Who are you eager to help free?

## MOVING FORWARD

Pray the phrase “*Our Father, Holy is your Name*” to open your (and your group’s) prayer time. Allow Christ to speak to you through this phrase and these powerful words.