

Daniel Perrin – L4: God is Passionate and Compassionate –
Sunday, January 19: More Than a Mother's Love

1. This week's lesson explores EMOTIONS as they relate to God.
 - God's emotions are not like ours
 - Our emotions are a window through which we can understand God.
 - Memory Text: **Isaiah 49:12** – *"Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you."*
 - Unfortunately it is possible – but that's the point
 - It is unnatural, and we all know it
 - Imagine a new mother: "Where's my baby? What did I do with her? / I left her here YESTERDAY when I was feeding her
 - The world wants to paint a picture of Dads that could forget their kids, that is careless of their safety
 - But listen to **Psalms 103:13** – *As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him.*
 - This is the word for compassion / tender affection / deep parental love
 - It's the SAME word from **Isaiah 49:12** that describes a mother's *compassion*
 - This is what you would expect from someone who is intimately bonded / having a grip on someone
2. **Psalms 68:6** – *God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.*
 - Why does God place us in families?
 - One reason is that families teach us all sorts of lessons.
 - Think of what you must learn from your family.
 - FIRST: some of the basics: how to get along in life / how to function / eating/walking/talking
 - THEN: Family is like a hands-on experimental lab experience where you grow character
 - Need to learn patience: have a sister
 - Need to learn self-control: have an irritating brother
 - Need to learn tenderness: have a child
 - Need to learn how to forgive: have a spouse
 - Need to learn how to put others first / say you're sorry / sacrifice
 - Work on a home remodel together / plant a garden / drive in an unfamiliar city
 - We can all put our best foot forward in the work-place, but at home the real you comes out
 - We make excuses for the poor way we treat each other in the home
 - God brings us face to face with our need for whole character transformation in the home
 - Another reason God places us in families: we need help
 - God designed it to be this way
 - God didn't give any one of us ALL the gifts / ALL the knowledge / ALL the skills
 - Families are an illustration of the Heavenly Family
 - SEE **ADVENTIST HOME Section 2**
 - The organized family of angels working together (the family corporation)
 - Whenever I need an illustration for something in the spiritual realm, I look first to the family
 - God has given us ways to understand what He is like
 - ENOCH walked with God — starting when his son was born.
 - Do you want to know what it means that God is love — God intends that to be illustrated in the family.
 - Sometimes it is illustrated by the opposite
 - All of these are to be visual aids for understanding what God is like
3. The divine purpose of families as an illustration of God's compassion presents you with a question:

- How AM I to illustrate God in this relationship?
 - My spouse is not meeting my expectations: How would God treat those who don't meet His expectations?
 - My child talks back to me (some of that they learned from me): How can I show what God's character is like?
- When we begin to get a small grip on how true love is expressed in human relationships ... THEN we begin to have an opening through which we can glimpse what God is like
 - ...what God *feels* toward us.
 - ...how God *behaves* toward us.
- Texts like this start to become clear: **Jeremiah 31:20** — *Is Ephraim My dear son? Is he a pleasant child? For though I spoke against him, I earnestly remember him still; therefore My heart yearns for him; I will surely have mercy on him, says the LORD.*
- **Luke 15:20** — *"And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.*