

The Father Ladder

The Father Ladder is a tool. It's a framework. It is not a formula. The goal of this tool is to help connect people more fully and relationally to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The premise is that our family of origin plays a significant role in shaping how we relate to God.

The Father	Earthly Father <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Security• Identity• Provision
The Son	Siblings <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Companionship• Communication• Peer Acceptance
The Holy Spirit	Mother <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nurture• Comfort• Teaching

The Connection

- Experiences with our earthly father can produce limitations in the way we relate to the Heavenly Father.
- Experiences with siblings can produce limitations in the way we relate to Jesus.
- Experiences with our mother can produce limitations in the way we relate to the Holy Spirit.

The Process

- What is their current picture of The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
- What do they need to forgive their dad, siblings, and mom for?
- What is the new picture God wants to give them of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

The Father Ladder

The Father Ladder is Trinitarian in Approach

The Father is the deity subsisting in the prime, unoriginated and most absolute manner, or the deity in its direct existence. The Son is the deity generated by God's understanding, or having an idea of Himself and subsisting in that idea. The Holy Ghost is the deity subsisting in act, or the divine essence flowing out and breathed forth in God's infinite love to and delight in Himself. – (Jonathan Edward, *An Essay on the Trinity*, 118).

“Unity” literally means “oneness.” God is one Being, in contrast to many beings. There is one and only one God (monotheism) as opposed to many gods (polytheism).

There are three related words that should be distinguished:

- (1) Unity—There are not two or more gods.
- (2) Simplicity—There are not two or more parts in God.
- (3) Trinity—There are three persons in the one God.

(Norman Geisler, *Systematic Theology Vol. II, Chapter 12*).

What, then, does the word *Trinity* mean? It means that God is a triunity: He is a plurality within unity. God has a plurality of persons and a unity of essence; God is three persons in one nature. There is only one “What” (essence) in God, but there are three “Whos” (persons) in that one What. God has three “I’s” in His one “It”—there are three Subjects in one Object (Norman Geisler, *Systematic Theology Vol. II, Chapter 12*).

- The Father Ladder tool is helpful in more deeply connecting people to the three distinct persons of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Spirit.
- The Father Ladder tool is helpful in identifying and removing obstacles to that deeper connection.
- The Father Ladder invites the Spirit to reveal the Son. (John 15:26)
- The Father Ladder invites the Son to reveal the Father. (John 14:7-9)

The Father Ladder is Kingdom Focused

- Matt 6:32
- Begins with a focus on God and ends with a deeper revelation of God
- Identifies and removes obstacles along the way
 - Forgiveness
 - Core Lies
 - Defenses

The Father Ladder is a Hearing God Exercise

- Recognizes and utilizes The Eyes of the Heart (Eph 1:17-18)
- Engaging the Imagination
- Yielding the Imagination to the voice of the Spirit

The Father Ladder

Spirit

- Picture the Holy Spirit and describe Him. What do you see, hear, feel? Where are you in relation?
- Ask: Is there anything I need to forgive my mother for? – Forgive
- Ask: Are there any core lies I've believed through my experience with my mom? – Confess/Renounce
- Ask: Are there any ways I've learned to protect myself from fear and/or pain? – Confess/Renounce
- Offer: Holy Spirit, would you take these lies and defenses from me? – Release them
- Offer: Holy Spirit, would you take this fear and pain from me? – Release them
- Receive: Holy Spirit, what do you want to give me in exchange?
- Receive: Holy Spirit, what is the new way you want to show yourself to me today? – Describe
- Ask: Holy Spirit, will you take me now to Jesus?

Jesus

- Picture Jesus and describe Him. What do you see, hear, feel? Where are you in relation to Him?
- Ask: Is there anything I need to forgive my siblings for? My friends (especially childhood)? – Forgive
- Ask: Are there any core lies I've believed through my early experiences with siblings/friends? – Confess/Renounce
- Ask: Are there any ways I've learned to protect myself from fear and/or pain? Confess/Renounce
- Offer: Jesus, would you take these lies and defenses from me?
- Offer: Jesus, would you take this fear and pain from me? – Release them
- Receive: Jesus, what do you want to give me in exchange?
- Receive, Jesus, what is the new way you want to show yourself to me today? – Describe
- Ask: Jesus, would you take me now to the Father?

Father

- Picture the Father and describe Him. What do you see, hear, feel? Where are you in relation to Him?
- Ask: Is there anything I need to forgive my earthly father for? – Forgive
- Ask: Are there any core lies I've believed through my experience with my earthly father? – Confess/Renounce
- Ask: Are there any ways I've learned to protect myself from fear and/or pain? Confess/Renounce
- Offer: Father, would you take these lies and defenses from me?
- Offer: Father, would you take this fear and pain from me? – Release them
- Receive: Father, what do you want to give me in exchange?
- Receive, Father, what is the new way you want to show yourself to me today? – Describe