

Does the Bible teach that we should call God ‘Daddy’?

Calling God “Daddy” got started back in the 1960’s when young people called “Hippies” and “Jesus Freaks” started claiming to follow Jesus and his teachings, and would address God as “Daddy” when they prayed to Him. These were the same people who translated Jesus’ command to “love one another” as to “have sex with one another!”

I remember in the early 70’s when I was a Youth Minister, debating with other youth ministers about teaching their youth groups to address God as “Daddy” (talking to God with the same slang they would use if He were nothing more than their “best friend”). Instead, I argued that we should teach the young people to refer to Him as ***“our Heavenly Father”*** (as Jesus commanded in *Matthew 6:9*), and speak to Him with great respect and reverence through Jesus Christ as *I Timothy 2:5* commands: “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” God is not our “Daddy” He is our Creator, Lord and Master! We must speak to Him with reverence and respect!

The youth ministers claimed that Jesus taught us to call God “Daddy” as He , Himself called God “Daddy” when he went out into the Garden to pray before He was crucified.

Did He? In *Mark 14 35,36* the Bible says: *“Going a little farther, He (Jesus) fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour (crucifixion) might pass from Him. “Abba, Father,” (using both the Aramaic and Greek words for “Father”) He said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”*

Then later, the Apostle Paul *said Romans 8:15*: *“...but you received the Spirit who makes you sons. And by Him (God) we cry, “Abba, Father” (again, using both the Aramaic and Greek*

words for “Father”). *The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”*

“Abba” is not the Greek word for “Daddy.” Abba is the Aramaic word for the equivalent or exact Greek word, “Pater” (long e), or “Father.”

After the Jews were taken away into captivity and Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by the Babylonians, in the days of Persia they were allowed to return and rebuild the Temple and then the City. Those who came back and lived in the Palestine area had their own native language --- Aramaic.

Only Mark’s version of the Gospels uses both the Aramaic and Greek words for “Father” (Abba, Pater) when quoting Jesus in the Garden in Mark 14:35,36: “Going a little farther, He (Jesus) fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour (crucifixion) might pass from Him. “Abba, Father,” (using both the Aramaic and Greek words for “Father”) He said, “Everything is possible for you. Take this cup from Me., Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

In this same story, Matthew, Luke and John all use only the Greek word for “Father” (Pater).

The Apostle Paul is the only other one to use both words for “Father” in Romans 8:15: “but you received the Spirit who make you sons. And by Him (God) we cry, “Abba, Father” (again, using both the Aramaic and Greek words for “Father”). The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”.

The reason? Most believe that because Mark was the cousin of Barnabas (Who traveled with Paul on his first missionary journey), and Paul told Timothy (II Timothy 4:11-13) to be sure and bring his writing equipment and Mark when he came to visit home in prison--- that Mark wrote the Gospel of Mark as quoted to him by the Apostle Paul.

That may be why only Mark and Romans use both Aramaic and Greek words for “Father” (Abba, Pater). The Jews (including Jesus and Paul) who grew up in the Palestine area, called their own fathers “Abba.” and the Greeks grew up calling their fathers “Pater” (long e). Paul was telling both Jew and Gentile that God was our Father, and we are His children, just as we all had earthly fathers, we have a Heavenly Father.

But, it must be noted, that neither the Romans nor the Jews used this word “Father” lightly. They spoke to their fathers with the greatest of respect. They did not call their father’s “Abba, Daddy” --- They called them either “Abba or Pater, Father” --- As Jesus commanded us to address God when we pray, according to Matthew 6:9: “This is how we should pray: “Our Father (Pater) in Heaven, hallowed be your Name...”” Jesus did not want us to address God as “Abba” or “Daddy.”

NOW READ MY STUDY GUIDE ON “*JESUS TAUGHT US HOW TO PRAY.*”