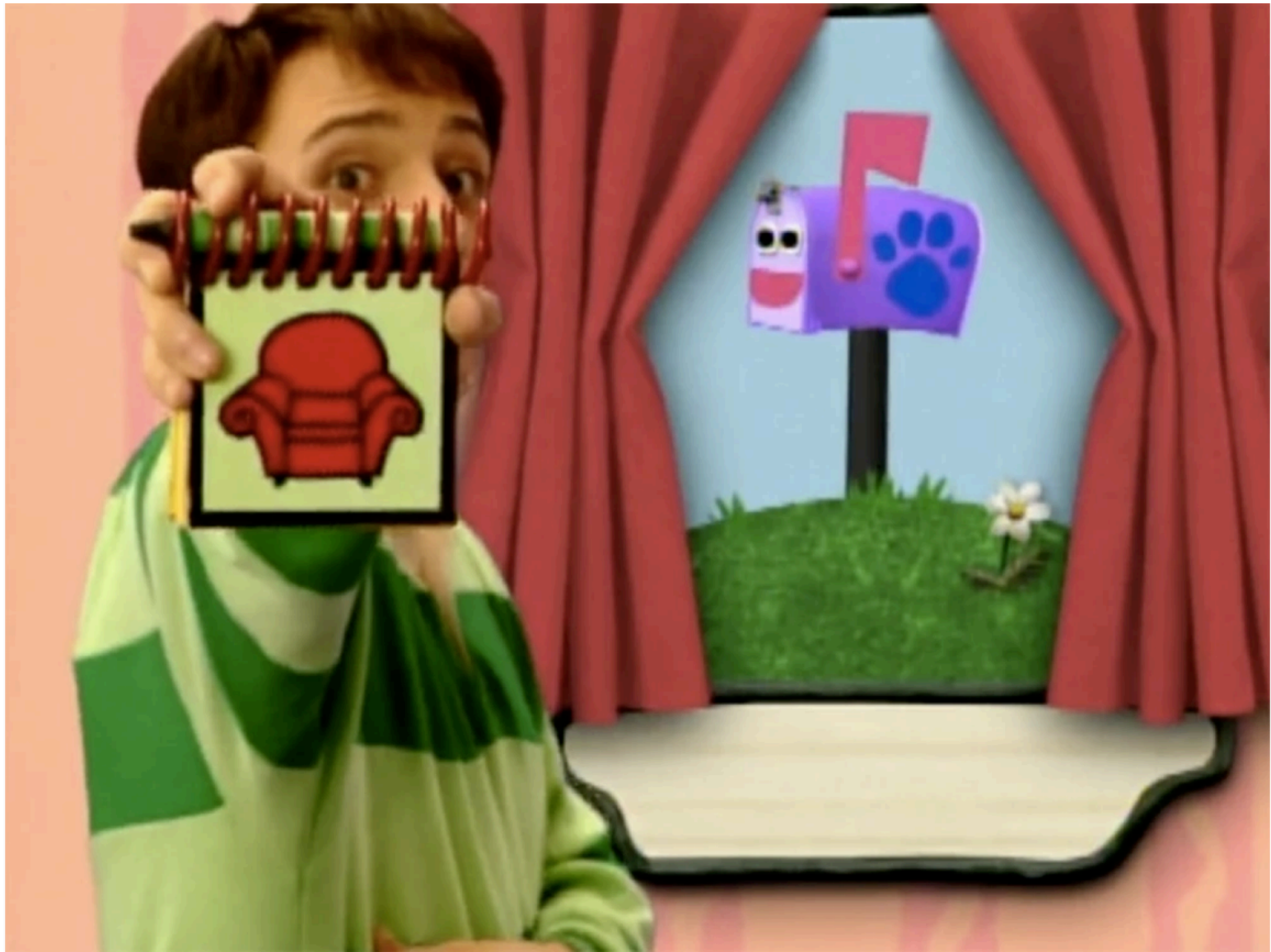


A stylized profile of a man's head, likely Jesus, rendered in shades of blue against a dark blue background. The head is filled with a lighter blue color. Inside the head, there is a white cross, a white path that winds through the head and down the neck, and a white sun or moon in the background. The text is overlaid on the head.

John 8:13-19

His Best Friend's Gospel

Who is your Father?







¹³ So the Pharisees said to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.” ¹⁴ Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.

John 8:13–19

ESV



¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. ¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. ¹⁸ I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.”



¹⁹ They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”



The Father of Abraham

- There is no shortage of Father language in the Old Testament.
- Jewish people had an acute awareness that God was their father, *in a sense*.
- He was their father, because Abraham was their father, God had covenanted with Abraham. YHWH was their father in the sense that they were “children of the promise”.
- However, it seems that when the Jews of the time referred to “God as a father... [it] must be understood as a metaphor or a symbol, rather than as a “person.” (Rabbi Meir Bargeron, Congregation Achduth Vesholom)



My Father

- Jesus expresses a far different understanding of God as father. He refers to him as his own father, with whom he is in intimate and personal relationship.
- Jesus speaks of being sent by the father, having come from the father, bearing witness of The Father, and the father bearing witness of *him*, of judging, righteously alongside The Father.
- Claims both equality with The Father, and a personal relationship with The Father.

“If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”



What Kind of Knowing?

- Jesus makes another claim — That The Father can ultimately be known by knowing The Son.
- Three Greek words for “know”
- γινώσκω (ginōskō) — knowledge that comes from personal experience. It is the intimate, or hidden, or secret knowledge that can only be understood through close personal relationship.
- ὁράω (horaō) — to see with ones eyes, to conceive of in your mind. Used to describe facts, head knowledge or things that can be reasoned.
- εἶδω (eidō) — to behold, or to perceive, to see, to recognize, *and to understand*. Intuitive knowledge, a fullness of knowledge and understanding, absolute knowledge without doubt, which in the case of believers can only be given by the Holy Spirit.



To Know The Father, by Knowing the Son

- Jesus use *eidō* here for a reason.
- He is pointing out that, no matter your experience with human fathers, you can know, with certainty, the kind of Father you have in heaven, simply by looking at Him.
- Even if you haven't yet had that revelation knowledge of God. Even if you haven't developed that relationship... Even if you don't have positive human examples to look to, Jesus reveals something fundamental and true about what it means to have a Father.



What Kind of Father

- A Father defined by truth and dependability.
- A Father of mercy and compassion.
- A Father who cares for His children.
- A just and Holy Father.
- A Father who speaks for us.
- A Father who brings freedom to the captives.
- A Father who loves us so deeply that he would send his son to willingly take the punishment we deserve so we can be redeemed and restored.

