



## Dear Friends,

This week, Kathryn and I finally got to meet our new grandson, Finley. To see him in the flesh, kiss his squishy face and hold him is the best! We have had lots of cuddles, have gone on walks and simply love to be with him and his mum and dad. Finley is totally adorable!

Beyond all the excitement, we have also been reminded of what a life changer it is for couples to have children. Often, newborns sleep for brief periods before demanding another feed, need regular nappy changes, are still learning to feed, and can take hours to settle. So, it's been lovely to be available to help settle Finley, prepare meals or clean while his parents get some much needed rest and sleep.

One of the other changes that happens when you become grandparents is that you gain a new name.

Before we became grandparents, we were at lunch with friends of ours who have numerous grandchildren. They asked whether we had decided what we want to be called as grandparents. It was a no-brainer for me. I would be called, 'Papou,' the Greek word for grandfather. That's because my kids called my dad, Papou, and even though I never got to meet either of my grandparents, our family always referred to them as 'Papou.'

Kathryn said she had finally settled on Yiayia, after much encouragement from our eldest daughter. I have always thought Kathryn is Greek at heart!

Our friends then said, "The name you choose as a grandparent is really important because it becomes a part of your identity. Not only will your grandchildren call YOU by that name, but so too will your own children. Even you, as a couple, will refer to each other by that name."

That thought hadn't occurred to me before. Now that they had mentioned it, I thought, "they are absolutely right." My children called my parents, Papou and Yiayia. Whenever we spoke to the kids about their grandparents, we called them Papou and Yiayia. When we visited my parents with the kids, we called them Papou and Yiayia more than we did Dad and Mum. Even when Kathryn and I were alone and talking about my parents, they were Papou and Yiayia.

This made me think about the name by which we call God. When God sent his Son, Jesus Christ into this world, it was a game changer. The name by which Jesus most referred to God is, Father. One might say that is because Jesus is the divine Son who was "with God," and "was God," and "was with God in the beginning" (John 1:2).

But it's not only Jesus who calls God, Father. When he teaches his disciples to pray, Jesus said, "When you pray, say: Father ..." (Luke 11:2).

Is "Father" your preferred name for God? Names matter, especially when it comes to God. If you belong to Christ, God is your Father. You are a child of your Heavenly Father. You share sonship with God the Son. The Spirit of the Father and the Son lives in you.

So, when you pray, say, Father ...

God Bless,  
Mark Adams