

SUMMER READING

Summer Reading

Small Group Questions: Part 3: Who's Your Daddy?

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Read

Genesis 2:18; Psalm 68:6; Ephesians 6:4; Matthew 3:17, 6:26, 7:9–11, and 18:12–14; 1 Corinthians 4:17 and 2 Corinthians 6:18; 2 Timothy 1:2; James 1:27; and Galatians 4:6–7; 2 Timothy 1:2

Reflect

As humans, we were created for relationship. The Bible holds a lot of instruction for fathers on how to relate, teach, and protect their children. But in the world today, many children do not have fathers—or even father figures in their lives. What can you do to change that?

Pastor Greg Surratt discusses ways to reverse the curse of fatherlessness:

1. Dedicate yourself to becoming a good father.
 - a. Which of the following is easiest for you? Which is the hardest, and why?
 - b. Every son or daughter needs:
 - i. Acceptance
 1. When have you had a hard time accepting a child's behavior? How did you respond?
 2. What is the difference between acceptance and approval? Which is most harmful if withheld?
 - ii. Affection
 3. God declared, "This is my son, in whom I am well pleased." How did your family growing up show love? How would you continue the cycle, or if love was absent, how will you break the cycle?
 4. Why is it important to show honor and respect in front of children?
 - iii. Affirmation.
 5. How do you affirm children—whether as a biological father or as a spiritual father?
 6. How do you balance time away in support of the family and quality time with the family?
2. Borrow the wisdom of a surrogate father.
 - a. Paul calls himself a father to Timothy. What impact did Paul have on Timothy?
 - i. How might you mentor a child without a father? Who could you mentor?
 - ii. Who has been a good example?
 - b. Are you in need of a mentor? Have you asked or prayed for a mentor...a spiritual father?
3. Learn to receive from your heavenly father.
 - a. In 2 Cor. 6:18, God promises if you follow him, he will be your father. How hard is to believe and trust that God means it?
 - b. Is it hard to believe he wants something good for you? Explain.
 - c. How do you view God? Do you view him as similar to your earthly father? Explain.
 - d. Are you willing to rededicate to being the best parent you can be? It's never too late.

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?