

*The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*  
Genesis 2:18 (NIV)

*God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.* Psalm 68:6 (NIV)

"Fathered by God" by John Eldridge

## REVERSING THE CURSE OF FATHERLESSNESS

### 1. DEDICATE YOURSELF TO BECOMING A GOOD FATHER

*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.* Ephesians 6:4 (NLT)

*And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*  
Matthew 3:17 (NIV)

Every son or daughter needs:

1. Acceptance
2. Affection
3. Affirmation

Practically (Chris Hodges)

1. You can't say it until you see it
2. When you see it, you've got to say it
3. When you see it and say it, you've got to start it

### 2. BORROW THE WISDOM OF A SURROGATE FATHER

*For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord...*

1 Corinthians 4:17 (NIV)

*To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.*

2 Timothy 1:2 (NIV)

*Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.* James 1:27 (NIV)

### 3. LEARN TO RECEIVE FROM YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER

*I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.*

2 Corinthians 6:18 (NIV)

*Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!*

Matthew 7:9-11 (NIV)

*Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?* Matthew 6:26 (NIV)

*What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.* Matthew 18:12-14 (NIV)

*Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.* Galatians 4:6-7 (NIV)