

SESSION 7 – “God’s Calling to Fathers”



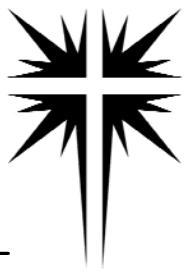
- I. INTRODUCTION: AS GO THE FATHERS...SO GOES THE HOME
 - A. Pacesetters (I Corinthians 11:1)
 - B. Trainers (Luke 6:40)
 - C. Providers of wisdom (Proverbs; I Timothy 5:8)

- II. INSTRUCTION: VARIOUS SCRIPTURES...
 - A. “Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath” (Ephesians 6:4)
 - 1. The “buck stops _____!”...dads are not mere spectators as wife “drives” family “bus”
 - 2. Role models and mentors who disciple (Proverbs 22:6)
 - 3. Nurturing = daily feeding (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 2 Timothy 3:15)
 - 4. Admonishing = warning...balance feeding and warning as a process
 - B. Fathers must ask “Do my children trust and follow me?” (Proverbs 3:5-6)
 - 1. _____ is the basis of all relationships that last (John 8:31-32)
 - 2. Develop a model of trust (Jeremiah 17:5-8)...dad is pacesetter here... leadership is _____!
 - a. Identification factor: Need to know I belong...family...loyalty!
 - b. Socialization factor: Need to know _____ I belong...need each other...interdependent!
 - c. Significance factor: Who am I in God’s eyes...Dad’s eyes?
 - d. Security factor: Am I loved unconditionally...we are one in Christ (John 17)
 - 3. Practical aspects of fathers building trust relationships...
 - a. Must build clear attitude of family identity
 - i. We protect God’s Name and our family name thru integrity
 - ii. Absolute truths: right is right even when _____ else is doing it
 - iii. Reputation of your children in school, neighborhood?
 - b. Father must demonstrate growing love for his wife (Ephesians 5:25)
 - i. Time _____... “couch time” with mom as wife...model to children
 - ii. Date night...our relationship is very important!
 - iii. How does a child trust a dad who has no time for mom?



- iv. **B.E.S.T. (being spouses best friend)**
 - (a) **Be a blessing daily (Proverbs 17:17; 27:17)**
 - (b) **Encourage daily (Eph.4:29)**
 - (c) **Share daily (Heb.10:24-25)**
 - (d) **Touch daily (non-sexually)...hugging...e.g.**
- v. **Let children hear you praise her _____ in sincerity and truth**
- vi. **Visible gifts of flowers, cards etc.**
- c. **Must build memories...**
 - i. **Vacations...kids help plan...enjoy journey together**
 - ii. **Lunches, breakfasts...1-on-1**
 - iii. **Special outings individually...camping, e.g.**
 - iv. **Athletics, school gatherings priority**
 - v. **Something you make for/with your child is more valuable than something you buy**
 - vi. **Special share times at Christmas, Thanksgiving, Mother's Day... "Hasn't God been SO good to us as a family...grace has given us to each other"!**
- d. **Respect your child's private world**
 - i. **At all ages**
 - ii. **Leave their things alone, except with permission (e.g. to throw away "old" toy)**
 - iii. **_____ knock before entering**
 - iv. **Prove your trustworthy during vulnerable moments in early insecure years, to have open doors later in life's crucial years**
- e. **Teach how to build friendships (I Cor. 15:33; Prov. 2:20; 13:20; 15:31)**
 - i. **Choices of the heart (Genesis 50:20)**
 - ii. **Others (Philippians 2:3-5)**
- f. **Fathers _____ keep promises (Numbers 23:19)**
 - i. **Ecclesiastes 5:1-3...vows**
 - ii. **Trust! (2 Corinthians 1:20)**
 - iii. **A trustworthy father is a sanctifier of the heart (John 17:17)**
- g. **Allow freedom to choose and fail (Romans 8:28-29)**
 - i. **First step to success...Peter...divine appointments (Jas. 1:2-3)**
 - ii. **Set _____ goals ...don't provoke to wrath!**
 - iii. **Failure with effort is ok**
 - iv. **Failure without effort is _____**
- h. **Be an encourager (Barnabas)**

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- i. Child's #1 fan...
- ii. Write notes of encouragement
- iii. Call on phone
- iv. Be a listener...so kids learn they can trust you with REAL issues of life!
- i. Hug your kids...express love (John 13:35)..._____ love!
 - i. Authoritarian parenting produces temporary façade of family identity
 - ii. Kids conform to rules out of fear, not love and devotion (Calvinism)
- j. Boundaries must be clear and _____
 - i. Builds bonds of trust...know where safe...family is haven of trust, rest
 - ii. Be fair and discerning with granting freedoms (love allows choices)...
 - iii. Train the _____ (Proverbs 4:23; 23:7a; 6:18)
 - iv. Be merciful (Micah 6:8)
 - v. No murmuring (Philippians 2:14)
 - vi. Permissive child-centered parenting builds independence rather than interdependence... "my rights...I want it now"...

